

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuba volunteers doctors
to cut infant deaths in Haiti

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Striking miners protest FBI harassment

BY DANNY BOOHER

PITTSBURGH — Members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) on strike against Freeman United Coal Co. are speaking out against an FBI attack on their strike.

According to David Yard, two FBI agents showed up at the door of his 86-year-old grandmother, Georgia Yard, November 6. David Yard is a striking member of UMWA Local 1969 who works at Freeman's Crown 2 mine in Virden, Illinois. Yard is also a trustee on the UMWA's Miner's Relief Fund.

Locals 1969, 12, and 2488 of the UMWA struck Freeman on September 11, after the company refused to negotiate a contract that would guarantee health benefits for retired miners. Freeman is a subsidiary of General Dynamics Corporation.

In a phone interview, David Yard said the two FBI agents told Georgia Yard they wanted to search a shed on her property. She replied that they could not and asked if they had a search warrant.

When the agents realized they would get nowhere, they left.

Three days later, FBI agent Terrence Moody and another agent showed up at Georgia Yard's door with a search warrant signed by U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron G.

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Protests by students and workers swell in Indonesia

BY BOBAIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia — Massive student-led protests for democratic reforms took place across the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, November 12-13. More than 150,000 students took part in the mobilizations, along with hundreds of thousands of working people. The state radio station Radio Republic Indonesia reported 1 million on the streets November 12.

The protests, against a special November 10-13 session of Indonesia's parliament, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), were the largest since former president Suharto resigned May 21 after more than 30 years of dictatorial rule.

The actions began several days earlier with sharpening confrontations unfolding between the army, police, and thousands of recently organized vigilantes on the one hand, and students, workers, and other residents on the other.

Troops fired on the protests, killing at least 15 people — two on November 12, and more the following day, with more than 300 wounded.

Jakarta Post reporters described clashes that took place late November 13 at Atma Jaya University as a "bloody massacre" instigated by soldiers. Other reports said some of the soldiers dropped into a kneeling position to get a more accurate aim at the protesters, and that troops fired rubber bullets indiscriminately at close range into the crowd, which numbered in the tens of thou-

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'Inspectors' out of Iraq!

Lift the embargo now! U.S. troops out of Mideast!

Nothing has been resolved in U.S. imperialism's latest confrontation with Iraq. The likelihood of thousands of Iraqi people being slaughtered by U.S. cruise missiles has only increased.

The return of the UN snoops to

EDITORIAL

Baghdad — under the guise of "hunting for weapons of mass destruction" — sets the stage for more provocations, which Washington will use as a pretext to launch a military assault.

Their "aggressive inspections" have nothing to do with searching for chemical or biological weapons.

The presence of these provocateurs in Iraq serves the U.S. rulers' propaganda for pressing their dominance in the Arab-Persian Gulf, trampling on the sovereignty of Iraq, and paving the way for bombing

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Left: UN "inspectors" return to Iraq. Right: Protest in New York, January 1998. The so-called resolution of conflict has set stage for further provocations by U.S.-led snoops.

Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Miami protest: free Antonio Camacho

BY ANITA LYNNE

MIAMI — Chanting "¡Libertad, libertad, para Camacho y los demás!" (Free Camacho and the others), 40 people picketed the United States Federal Courthouse and the Federal Detention Center in downtown Miami November 14, demanding release of all Puerto Rican political prisoners. Antonio Camacho Negrón, one of the 16 Puerto Rican *independistas* held by the U.S. government because of their unbroken struggle for independence, is currently held at the Miami Federal Detention Center.

Camacho was convicted as one of the "Hartford 15" in a frame-up that began in 1985. Fifteen pro-independence activists were accused of conspiracy in the robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1983.

The FBI conducted illegal electronic surveillance and wiretapping for more than a year before arresting 15 activists in Puerto Rico, who were flown to Hartford

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Come to the Third National Convention of the Young Socialists

Ours is the Epoch of World Revolution
Building a proletarian youth
organization today



- Linking up with workers and youth in struggle: Building the YS through mass work
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Several sessions will be open to the public, including:

- Reports by Young Socialists leaders
- Presentations and discussion

MARY-ALICE WATERS, editor of *New International Report from Cuba: working people confront the capitalist world disorder, defend their socialist conquests, and extend their internationalism*

JACK BARNES, national secretary, Socialist Workers Party
The political shifts registered in the most important U.S. elections since 1992

- Summary of YS convention and launching preparations for 1999 Socialist Workers Party convention in San Francisco

For more information, call the YS National Office (213) 387-3033, or contact YS members in your area (see numbers listed on page 12).

Build, attend YS convention

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party is urging members, supporters, and friends of the communist movement to come to Los Angeles December 4-6 to participate in the open sessions of the Young Socialists convention taking place there that weekend (see adjacent ad).

All sessions of the youth gathering will be open to members of the Young Socialists and invited YS-age youth. Several sessions throughout the three days of the convention, however, will be open to supporters and friends of the Young Socialists.

These will include reports by leaders of the Young Socialists on the

Continued on Page 14

London electricians strike, demand safe job conditions — page 7

Banks give negative rates for yen

Major U.S. and British banks — including J.P. Morgan and Barclays Capital — in early November would take yen deposits only at negative interest rates. That is, anyone wishing to deposit yen in these banks would do so at an automatic loss. Depositors, nervous to invest their money in Japanese banks, stocks, and bonds, were willing to accept the subzero rates. The London Interbank Offered Rate — the rate at which banks trade to each other — hovered above zero at 0.39 percentage points, its lowest level recorded. A November 6 *Financial Times* article quoted an unnamed London banker as saying, "The fact that people are willing to accept negative interest rates in yen is an alarming reflection on the state of the Japanese economy."

Tokyo tries to buoy Nissan

Nissan, Japan's second-largest car manufacturer, has requested a \$872-million loan from state banks to make payments on \$22 billion in debts. The economic crisis throughout Asia, combined with overcapacity in the auto industry and intensified competition with auto bosses in the United States, has weakened Nissan's exports. Meanwhile, Tokyo announced a \$195 billion "economic stimulus" plan to try to pull the economy out of a depression.

Italy: cabbies protest new laws

Thousands of cab drivers from across Italy converged in the capital city of Rome, November 12 in a national demonstration to oppose new antilabor legislation being discussed by government officials that day. The protest came after a four-day strike and weeks of one-day work stoppages by drivers in Rome. The laws, which were adopted the next day, allow an unlimited work day, with cab drivers forced to work a minimum of six hours a day and negotiate "bargains" on cab fares. Previously, taxi drivers worked a maximum of seven-and-a-half-hour daytime or nine-hour nighttime shifts with standardized fares. Drivers from Milan, Turin, Genoa, Naples, and Venice participated in the demonstration, seeing the laws as attempts to foster competition between toilers. In Venice, water-taxi gondoliers filled that

Iowa protest demands release of Abu-Jamal



Thirty people marched November 14 in Des Moines, Iowa, to demand the release of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a framed-up Black activist on death row in Pennsylvania. Some 250 flyers on the case were distributed to motorists. Most participants were students from Grinnell College. Greg Schrieber explained, "We tried to reach out to hospital workers on break near the demonstration. I was impressed with the warm response I got from everyone."

Militant

city's lagoons in solidarity.

Portugal: 250,000 students strike

Most of Portugal's 250,000 university students went on a one-day strike November 12 against increased fees. The law, passed by the Socialist Party government in September, raised the fee from a nominal \$7 dollars a year to \$330. Some students see the hike as the first step toward eliminating state-funded higher education. Many have refused to pay the tuition fee. No punitive action has been taken against students so far.

Zimbabwe nat'l strike hits bosses

Workers in Zimbabwe staged a general strike November 11, bringing that country to a standstill. It was the first in a series of weekly one-day work stoppages called by

the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions to protest a 67 percent rise in gas prices the previous week. There were also some street demonstrations. In the eastern town of Mutare, one protester was shot dead by riot cops. The government unsuccessfully scrambled to avert the strike, calling for negotiations on wage raises and consumer price hikes.

The unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is more than 30 percent in a population of 12 million. Over the past 12 months, the Zimbabwean dollar has lost 80 percent of its value. Prices on food and other essential goods shot up 33 percent with the fuel price hike.

Nigeria: youth seize oil bosses

Nigerian youth on November 11 boarded an offshore containment vessel used by oil giant, Texaco Inc., and seized eight people, including a U.S. boss. They are demanding the Nigerian government improve living conditions in the Niger River delta region. Nigeria is one of the world's largest oil producing countries. Though the area is rich in oil, most residents in that Third World capitalist country are destitute, with no running water, no electricity, and unpaved roads.

Honduras: Chiquita axes 7,800

Chiquita Brands International announced it will lay off nearly all of its work force in Honduras for at least year, throwing 7,800 toilers into the streets. The company blames Hurricane Mitch for the job cuts, citing \$200 million in damage to banana plantations. The "compensation" package for workers

amounts to a miserly \$21 a week, some medical benefits, and whatever hurricane relief aid is available.

U.S.-EU trade conflict sharpens

Washington has threatened to raise import taxes to 100 percent on a range of products from countries in the European Union (EU) if the EU fails to change its current policies around bananas. The U.S. government complains that existing trade laws favor bananas from countries in the Caribbean and Africa, which are dominated by European imperialists, over those exploited by U.S. companies in Central and South America. EU officials say they will match any sanctions placed on EU countries with measures of its own. Paris and London support the current banana trade system, while rulers in Sweden and Germany oppose it.

Another Black killed by police

New York City cop Craig Yokemick chased Kenneth Banks, 36, down 125th Street in Harlem October 29. Yokemick hurled his walkie-talkie at Banks, striking him in his head and knocking him off his bike. Banks suffered a fractured skull and internal bleeding. He went into a coma and died two weeks later. Inquiries about excessive use of force are under way, but Yokemick remains on the job, albeit disarmed and behind a desk. Originally, police tried to blame Banks's death on drug overdose. Police reports claim Banks had cocaine on his person at the point of arrest. The cops also asserted that Banks had a history of epilepsy or seizures. But all those reasons for death were disproved by autopsy reports and family testimony. Yokemick has been disciplined before on at least two occasions for assault or using excessive force.

Arkansas antichoice law dropped

A 1997 Arkansas law banning a method of late-term abortion was thrown out by a federal judge November 13. Judge Jerry Cavanaugh repealed the legislation, stating it was so broadly written it effectively banned all abortions. The law primarily punished doctors for performing a type of late-term abortion with up to six years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The state government in Arkansas has made no decision about appealing the ruling. Several doctors had earlier tried to file suits against the law.

Black discrimination suit: Oil bosses agree to pay \$6.75 million

Penzoil Company agreed to pay \$6.75 million to settle with Black employees from the past four years who have cited discrimination in hiring practices and treatment. About 700 Black employees at Penzoil can apply to be part of the class-action suit settlement. The suit was originally brought forward by 11 Blacks, representing others who worked at the oil company from August 1994 to August 1998. The company insists that the settlement does not constitute an admission of liability.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

THE MILITANT

Defend and extend affirmative action!

A referendum that ends state affirmative action programs was recently approved in Washington. Workers and youth there are fighting to defend this right won through struggle. The 'Militant' explains why affirmative action is a gain for the entire working class. Don't miss a single issue!



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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Ontario gov't backs off education cuts

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — The Conservative government led by Premier Michael Harris in the province of Ontario blinked and retreated from a round of announced cuts to education November 6.

Just eight days earlier, the Toronto School Board had announced a list of 138 schools that it said would close in the next school year in order to implement cuts to education imposed by the Harris government last March.

The 138 schools represent more than one fifth of Toronto's 591 elementary and secondary schools. School boards across the entire province warned they may have to close up to 600 schools to carry out cuts decreed by the provincial Ministry of Education's funding formula for school space and upkeep.

The announcement ignited a firestorm of protest from teachers, students, and parents across the province.

School assemblies, parent-teacher and community meetings were organized or announced in the eight days between the Toronto School Board's announcement and the government's retreat. On November 2, more than 300 parents and teachers protested the closing of Humewood Community School. TV news showed similar meetings in the evenings that followed.

On November 6, Harris announced that the government would inject an additional \$200 million into next year's budget to delay implementation of these cuts for at least one year. Provincial elections are widely expected to be called next year.

A November 4 evening meeting at Parkdale Collegiate in west Toronto was typical of similar meetings at schools slated for closing. A school assembly organized October 29, a few hours after the announcement, filled the auditorium with angry students, staff, and parents who heard the news.

The November 4 meeting was originally organized for the teacher committee set up in the wake of the October 29 announcement. But word of the meeting got out, a few posters went up in the neighborhood and 100 students and parents showed up to join the teachers.

Calvin Richmond, the student body president, said, "How are we going to have a better education if the government closes our

school down? We're going to fight with everything we've got."

Many of the schools with surplus capacity have day-care centers in their unused classrooms. Some 71 day-care centers are threatened along with the 138 schools.

The level of anger and rapid mobilizations threw the government off balance. Their miscalculation comes in the context of other fights against the Ontario government's cutbacks in education and health.

At the outset of the school year in September, 7,400 teachers in the Greater Toronto Area struck or were locked out over implementation of regulations requiring teachers to take on more students and teaching time.

The Harris government issued legislation ordering teachers back to work after three weeks.

In the fall of 1997, 126,000 teachers went on a two-week strike across Ontario to protest Bill 160, which gave the government arbitrary powers to regulate class size and teacher working conditions, laying the ground for slashing teachers' jobs.

Parents demonstrated their support for the strike, which increased as the strike went on.

Youth protest cop attack on D.C. concert



BY CLIVE TURNBULL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly two dozen people, most of them high school students, rallied against cop brutality at the police headquarters here October 30. The protest followed an attack by police on a benefit concert October 22, which itself was a protest against police brutality.

Nick Kirby, a high school senior who was at the concert, described what happened at a Militant Labor Forum November 7. "A couple of

bands had played and there had been two speakers. One explained how her son had been shot to death by the police. Another talked about how the police harass people on the Mexican border."

"The police claimed that alcohol was being served, but the bar was closed," Kirby said. "As we came out of the club the police were pushing and shoving us, that was when my friend Danny was arrested."

New Zealand pension cuts draw protests

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

AUCKLAND — Some 1,300 elderly people rallied October 31 in the Auckland Town Hall to condemn cuts to the government-provided old-age pension, announced at the end of September. The meeting was organized by Grey Power. Jeering and turning their backs, they refused to let David Carter, the National Party Minister for Se-

nior Citizens, finish his remarks. Other speakers, from Grey Power, the Labour Party, the Alliance Party, and the Returned Service Association, received a friendlier response.

The meeting was one expression of widespread outrage as the government pushed through a measure to reduce the pension from 65 to 60 percent of the average wage

over the next decade. Speakers at the meeting prompted derisive laughter when they noted that Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley calls this not a "cut," but an "adjustment."

Days after the pension cuts were announced, the government said that, contrary to promises, it would maintain the policy that forces most seriously ill old people to spend much of their savings on hospital care. Participants in the Auckland meeting stood to observe a moment of silence for Harry Findlay, who had taken a stand against this "asset and income testing" as it is known. Findlay, who died in October aged 83, paid NZ\$21,000 (NZ\$1=US\$0.54) for the long-term care of his terminally-ill wife before refusing to pay more.

With nationwide support from working people Harry Findlay won a legal challenge against the final bill of NZ\$58,000. His wife died in 1997.

Applause greeted Alliance leader James Anderton when he condemned the institution this year of a new booking system for operations in public hospitals. Doctors now award points to patients based on their condition, and a certain score is required to qualify for an operation. Only about a quarter of those currently waiting for surgery are expected to "qualify" as being in poor enough health to get it. Laughter and jeers greeted the report by Donald Robertson, the President of the Grey Power Federation of New Zealand, which stated that doctors have been told they have a duty to assist those who don't qualify to "deal with their disappointment."

Labour Party leader Helen Clark said a Labour-led government would restore the pension to its previous level.

In this noisy meeting, people also made loud and clear their contempt for the "Code of Social Responsibility" whenever speakers mentioned it. This code had originally been proposed by the rightist New Zealand First leader Winston Peters when he was treasurer in the coalition government. It aimed to "force beneficiaries into a social contract in return for getting state benefits" as reports summarized it.

During February 1.4 million booklets were mailed out to households, attempting to gain support for the code. They included a survey with loaded questions such as, "Should beneficiaries have their benefits docked if their children play truant?"

This exercise ended in ignominy in late October, as the government announced that only 6.7 percent of the surveys were filled in and returned.

UK: antiracist fighters gain confidence

BY ANGELA STEWART
AND CAROLINE BELLAMY

LONDON — "In the last eight months we can see the confidence rise of people who for years have suffered brutality," said Bali Gill of the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign at a recent Militant Labour Forum in London. She was underlining the importance of the recent public judicial inquiry into the police investigation of the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence in April 1993. The inquest into Lawrence's death concluded that he had died in "an unlawful killing in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths." Prosecutions of these youths, named by 26 witnesses, were halted because of the supposed lack of evidence. The judicial inquiry revealed that such evidence could have been collected by the police, but was not. The inquiry was won as part of a five-year campaign by Lawrence's parents.

The Lawrence campaign has encouraged other antiracist fights. On November 3, UK Home Secretary Jack Straw met the family of Michael Menson. Menson, a 30-year-old Black man, died two weeks after being set on fire in January 1997. He was conscious for a week before he died. During that time he told several people that he had been attacked by four white youths. The police never took a statement from Menson, saying they assumed he had set fire to himself as a result of mental illness. Menson's family is demanding a fresh team of police investigators into his murder.

Straw offered a new investigation, headed by John Grieve, director of Racial and Violent Crime at Scotland Yard. The family has not yet decided whether to take up the offer. Grieve headed up the Anti-Terrorist branch from February 1996 until recently. He was in charge of that branch when unarmed Irish fighter Diarmuid O'Neill was shot dead in London in September 1996. Within days of

O'Neill's death, the Police Complaints Authority promised a fair and impartial investigation would be complete in six weeks. To date they have failed to report. Gill declared, "For the first time the Lawrence inquiry has allowed minute investigation into police actions" and exposed the truth of "things we've always been saying." At the inquiry one cop said that he did not search the house of a suspect for weapons because it was "too nicely decorated." It has been reported that Lawrence was denied first aid at the scene of the crime.

As more evidence has come to light there has been division in police ranks on the best way to defend themselves. Metropolitan Police Chief Commissioner Sir Paul Condon continues to deny that there is institutionalized racism in the force. David Wilmot, head of Greater Manchester Police, on the other hand acknowledged some police racism, but blamed it on a racist society.

Shellia Kennedy, a member of the Rail Maritime and Transport workers union and of the Communist League, also spoke at the forum. "These excuses are covering up the real reason Stephen Lawrence died. They let the cops off the hook. To simply say that we live in a racist society implies that what the five youths did to Stephen is a part of white working-class behavior. This is not true.... Racism is a system used by the ruling class to maintain its power. It does not come from us, it comes out of their system. When ruling-class politicians show immigrants as a problem, say that workers should protect 'British' jobs and 'campaign to save the pound,' rightist forces seeking scapegoats for the economic crisis find their targets. The cops are there to defend capitalism and that's why they are racist. It's also why the police cannot be reformed."

The resonance of the Lawrence campaign among workers is evident. A BBC poll showed that 90 percent of London residents

had heard of the case and 48 percent said they now have less trust in the police. Kennedy reported how a Black co-worker who was stopped by the police told them to back off, saying "I know about the Stephen Lawrence case."

A recent conference on "The betrayal of Stephen Lawrence — Grassroots response and the way forward" in London drew 250. Many were members of other family-based campaigns, from around the UK, inspired by the Lawrence fight to intensify their challenges to police and immigration service murders of their relatives.

Irish campaigners for justice are beginning to come together with these campaigns. At a meeting in August attended by 300 people, Diane Hamill spoke. She is the sister of Robert Hamill, who was kicked to death by pro-British loyalists in Portadown, Northern Ireland, while officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) sat and watched. Hamill said, "We have seen the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and the other cases here tonight, some of them very similar. We hope that if we all get together we may get a public inquiry into what went on." The family of Diarmuid O'Neill also took part.

Suresh Grover of the Stephen Lawrence campaign pointed to the importance of cases like the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, where police frame-ups of Irish people were exposed. Without these victories, "the Lawrence campaign would never have come as far as it has. This shows how important it is for Black and Irish people to unite against injustices.... One of the chief police officers said at the inquiry that he did not arrest them [the suspects] because he did not understand the powers of arrest. You tell that to the Irish and the Black community!"

Angela Stewart is a member of the Young Socialists. Caroline Bellamy is a member of the Transport and General Workers Union at Ford, Dagenham.

New International Fund goes over the top of \$115,000

BY BROCK SATTER

NEWARK, New Jersey — Using the last two weeks to shift gears on the *New International* fund and a strong effort internationally, we went over the top on our \$115,000 goal, raising more than \$119,000, or 104 percent. More that is reported on the way but not received in New York at press time, will send the total even higher.

The money will be used to continue publication of *New International* magazine, including no. 11 featuring the article "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War" by Jack Barnes. It will also be used to produce Spanish-, French-, and Swedish-language editions of the issue. This fund drive has shown that growing interest in socialist ideas among fighting workers, farmers, and youth means greater opportunities for financial support for a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. The two go hand in hand.

Fund supporter Nat London wrote from France: "Thierry, who had worked as a temporary worker at the Renault auto plant with me before going to another plant, called me up at the last minute to come over to my house with a check for 200 francs out of his most recent paycheck. This is the sum that put us over the top on the drive. Thierry cannot read English and is quite anxiously awaiting the French edition of *New International*. The extra 200 francs will help get it out soon." Supporters in France raised \$432, 108 percent of their \$400 goal.

The final push to reach out further to class-struggle-minded workers, farmers, and youth made the difference. In Des Moines, supporters of *New International* at the Swift meatpacking plant went on a two-week campaign to raise contributions from

other workers, Elvidio Mejía explained. "One worker gave \$10 when we talked to her about the fund. But after thinking about it some more and after further discussion, she gave another \$20. Another, who was reading *New International* no. 4 featuring the article by Jack Barnes 'For a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States,' gave \$10. He said he really liked the book. He said it was important because it was the only way to understand what happened in the past and what we can do right now."

"We collected another \$2.65 from a couple other co-workers. One was very interested in *New International* no. 11 but prefers to read in Spanish and will get a copy as soon as it is published in Spanish. One co-worker from Guatemala who used to study at the university there bought *Nueva Internacional* no. 1. She said it was important to understand the situation in Iraq. Through the two weeks of campaigning we were able to sell two copies of *New International*; in the last nine weeks we have sold a total of five copies of *New International* to our co-workers at Swift."

Although in many cities fund supporters got off to a late start, most were able to meet their goal. In Houston, Dave Ferguson, reported that many contributions came from sales of *New International*. "In the last day of the drive to win new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*, we sold 10 copies of the magazine. Many contributions came from the same people who bought the books. We had a fund celebration that featured Sam Manuel, a leader of the SWP's work in the United Transportation Union; Dean Cook, one of

the locked-out workers at Crown fighting a company lawsuit; and Robert Guerrero, a high school student and a member of the Young Socialists.

Those attending included a half-dozen youth, another locked out worker at Crown, and Toylean Johnson, an activist in the coalition fighting for justice for Pedro Oregón, who was killed by the police. A longtime supporter came all the way from New Orleans to the event and gave a contribution."

"A high point of the meeting was Cook's remarks explaining the lessons from the fight at Crown and their efforts to reach out into the labor movement and to other fighters for social justice for support for their struggle. Then Guerrero gave a talk on the ideas expressed in the "Young Socialists Manifesto." The young people who came must have liked the event because they stayed afterwards until midnight discussing politics."

In Cleveland, Steve Warshell, the fund director, reports that supporters there made their goal of \$4,000 (though not all of it has gotten to New York yet). "We thought that this was an important accomplishment because we haven't raised this much money in any fund drive in the recent past. Most people who contributed this time were not regular contributors to other fund drives. These included longtime supporters of the communist movement as well as many who were brand new to the ideas of *New International*."

\$115,000 New International Fund Drive

CITY/COUNTRY	GOAL	PAID	%
Canada			
Vancouver	550	1,224	223%
Toronto	1,670	3,200	192%
Montreal	665	751	113%
Canada Total	2,885	5,175	179%
New Zealand			
Auckland	1,500	1,765	118%
Christchurch	550	558	101%
N.Z. Total	2,050	2,323	113%
Australia Total	650	700	108%
France Total	400	432	108%
United Kingdom			
Manchester	672	872	130%
London	1,680	1,543	92%
UK Total	2,352	2,416	103%
Belgium Total	175	175	100%
United States			
Atlanta	2,800	3,611	129%
Chicago	7,500	8,890	119%
Des Moines	2,500	2,881	115%
Houston	6,000	6,430	107%
Miami	2,500	2,675	107%
Twin Cities, MN	7,000	7,395	106%
Seattle	8,500	8,935	105%
Birmingham	3,000	3,150	105%
Boston	4,700	4,907	104%
Pittsburgh	4,000	4,160	104%
Washington, D.C.	4,000	4,150	104%
New York	12,000	12,145	101%
Newark	8,500	8,553	101%
Detroit*	5,000	5,020	100%
Philadelphia	4,000	4,010	100%
Los Angeles	9,000	7,895	88%
Cleveland	4,000	3,442	86%
San Francisco	11,000	7,115	65%
Other		910	
US Total	106,000	106,273	100%
Iceland Total	1,400	1,230	88%
Sweden Total	1,250	1,075	86%
INT'L TOTAL:	116,987	119,799	104%
SHOULD BE:	115,000	115,000	100%
*Raised goal			

Capital needed as volunteers prepare Pathfinder shop for CTP

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

The sounds of hammers and drills echoed through the first floor of Pathfinder's print shop this week, accompanied by the aroma of floor cleanser, fresh paint, and cement. The initial team of volunteers, flying in from as far away as Vancouver and Miami, had begun preparing the book and pamphlet factory for delivery of the new Agfa Galileo computer-to-plate (CTP) system.

The machinery, representing the most modern labor-saving equipment available in the printing industry, will arrive in a series of very large crates November 21.

To prepare for the CTP installation, explains Jay Ressler, a steelworker who came in early from Detroit to help out, "we had to tear down parts of three internal walls so the riggers can maneuver the Galileo to its new site. Then we have to put them back up again. My job," he said, "is to try to make the second part as easy as possible."

Ressler, joined by workers from Vancouver, Edmonton, Miami, and Washington, D.C., is part of an advance crew preparing the way for more than 90 volunteers of all ages and skills who will take part in a Red Weekend here November 20-22.

Those with experience in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work will lead teams of up to a dozen helpers in the many projects involved in bringing the new equipment in.

The main task for the weekend is to clean, paint, wire, light, and install plumbing in a 25 by 35 foot area carved out of the old prepress offices to house the new equipment, which is scheduled to be up and running by mid-December.

In addition, some volunteers will help prepare Pathfinder books for digital reprint, and others will give the *Militant* a hand in tying up the loose ends in the change over to its new subscription program.

The funds to finance this transformation of the Pathfinder shop come from the same source as the labor — from contributions by workers and others around the world who are convinced of the importance of keeping Pathfinder books in print.

A \$550,000 Capital Fund was launched last month, at a meeting celebrating the life of veteran socialist Paul Montauk. The fund,

made up of contributions of \$1,000 or more, will cover the \$350,000 cost of the Galileo system and the \$200,000 remaining debt owed on printing presses purchased in 1994.

A total of \$192,500 has been raised so far, reports Maggie Trowe, organizer of the "war room" in Des Moines setting up Capital Fund meetings around the country. "In the last week visits to meet with supporters and speak at meetings in Houston, Seattle, Portland, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Newark, and New York resulted in \$8,500 in pledges," Trowe reports. An additional \$159,500 is needed by the end of the year to pay for the CTP equipment.

Trowe described a meeting held in Pittsburgh to discuss the fund-raising effort, which she took part in with Emily Fitzsimmons, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party there.

A supporter gave a demonstration on his home computer equipment of the process of scanning and proofreading Pathfinder books. Through this work, a network of

more than 100 volunteers in cities throughout the world are converting these valuable books into digital form on CD-ROM. In this durable form they are formatted and readied for use on the new computer-to-plate equipment being installed in Pathfinder's print shop.

"It was helpful to get a hands-on presentation of the work the volunteers are doing and the care they give their work," Trowe said.

"The work of the different components of the broader socialist movement complement each other," she added. "Members of the SWP and Young Socialists working on a mobilization against the Ku Klux Klan in Erie, Pennsylvania, this month, solidarity work with the striking workers at RMI Titanium, work by volunteers scanning Pathfinder books to keep them in print, and contributions of \$1,000 or more to the Capital Fund — together this adds up to building a revolutionary socialist movement." Fitzsimmons said socialists in Pittsburgh

will now organize to talk to a dozen or so supporters who could not attend the meeting.

"We have a lot more work to do to make that end-of-the year goal," says Sam Manuel, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and a member of the Capital Committee, who recently met with supporters in Texas.

"I had a good discussion with Socialist Workers Party leaders in Houston during my visit," Manuel said. "They agreed that they had to work hard to reach out and meet with every supporter of our movement in Texas and Louisiana to discuss the considerable opening for promoting revolutionary socialist ideas and the possibilities of raising capital to keep the book production going."

"This is a critical moment," Manuel said. "We owe it to our entire movement to make this discussion and appeal as broad as possible."

Washington state referenda

Continued from Page 11

some 'unqualified' Blacks, Chicanos, Native Americans, and women receive special treatment and get into school or get a job because of it," Powers continued.

"As I campaigned I sought to explain that affirmative action is a tool that can help unite the working class and overcome the divisions imposed by capitalism which weaken us in our battles against the employers and their government.

"Affirmative action is needed because of the legacy of race and sex discrimination and because such discrimination continues today in employment, education, housing and other areas. It is not a 'thing of the past,'" he continued.

"Taking the time to answer this and explaining how the capitalist class benefits by paying workers who are women or of oppressed nationalities less and by keeping us divided proved to be my most effective arguments."

Less than 24 hours after I-200 was

adopted, University of Washington President Richard McCormick announced, "Beginning immediately...I am setting in motion steps to suspend the use of race and sex as factors in admissions decisions to all University of Washington schools and colleges."

This decision, the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* noted in a November 5 front page article, "is expected to lead to a significant drop in the number of blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans on UW campuses." That night 60 students organized a candle light vigil protesting the University's decision.

Led by campus MEChA chapters, students at Sunnyside High School in the Yakima Valley and Mt. Vernon High School which is north of Seattle organized significant protests against I-200's passage on the day after the election.

At Sunnyside, 256 students were suspended for three days after they walked out November 4. The next day the school prin-

cipal reduced the suspension to two days, after he was faced with a meeting of angry parents and representatives from the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). Sunnyside lies in the heart of the Washington state apple industry and many of the students' parents are farm workers. It is where the UFW office is located.

More than 300 students in Mt. Vernon participated in a similar protest against the I-200 vote. After leaving the school the students marched to the office of the mayor, who met with them and expressed sympathy for their protest.

"The actions of these students show defenders of equality how to fight to keep affirmative action" Powers told the *Militant*. "The passage of I-200 does not end the fight. Those of us who seek to defend it will regroup, draw the lessons of this experience and continue the struggle," he said.

Geoff Mirelowitz is a member of the United Transportation Union Local 845.

Protests demand: 'U.S. hands off Iraq!'

Socialist workers and Young Socialists have been campaigning among workers, students, and others against Washington's preparations for a military assault on Iraq. Below are a few reports from *Militant* supporters around the world.

ATLANTA — The November 13 *Militant* Labor Forum in Atlanta was reorganized as an emergency protest against U.S. imperialism's war moves against Iraq. James Harris, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Georgia in the recent election, was featured on the 11:00 p.m. news on Channel 11, which covered the meeting.

"The crisis in the Gulf will continue because U.S. imperialism did not achieve the goals it set for itself in the 1991 Gulf War," Harris said. "This is what makes strikes against Iraq inevitable, if not this time than in the future. It's up to U.S. workers to demand 'U.S. hands off Iraq!'"

The next morning at Northwest Airlines, a co-worker told me he learned about the meeting while watching TV. "I liked what

your speaker had to say," he said.

The Young Socialists here are planning to attend a November 21-22 protest in Fort Benning, Georgia, that is demanding that the School of the Americas, a U.S. Army training school, be closed. "We will have a statement explaining why opposing the existing U.S. war drive against Iraq is the most important activity young people can engage in today," said Paul Crawford, a leader of the YS here. "We will be selling *New Internationalist* no. 7, 'Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq,' which explains why we should oppose the horrors of war. Youth have to fight against imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism."

Arlene Rubinstein



AUCKLAND — "Why won't they leave Iraq alone?" said an Engineers Union worker at the Fisher and Paykel refrigeration plant in Auckland as he and *Militant* supporter Terry Coggan discussed Washington's buildup in the Gulf. Previously this worker

had spoken in favor of imperialist attacks on the Middle Eastern country. The next day he decided to buy a copy of *New Internationalist* no. 7.

Several days later, November 14, some 30 people chanted "Hands Off Iraq" outside the U.S. consulate in Auckland, in an action called by the Gulf Crisis Committee. The crowd, which included many young people, held placards calling for an end to military assaults, UN inspections, and the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Speakers emphasized that although attacks had been called off, the imperialist armada in the region had been beefed up and was now on a hair trigger. The New Zealand government had placed 70 troops and two Orion surveillance aircraft, already stationed in the Gulf, on standby to join the aggression if called on.

Several participants seized the megaphone to speak out against the policy of Washington and Wellington. "Iraq has been under sanctions for eight years.... How many Iraqi people will die? How many Iraqi people

will suffer?" said Iraqi immigrant Nidhal Alusi, one of several people from the Middle East attending the protest.

Patrick O'Neill



CHICAGO — On November 17 about 75 people picketed outside the federal building in downtown Chicago, protesting the U.S. government's course toward a military assault on Iraq. Among the chants at the protest were: "No bombing, no sanctions, no war against Iraq" and "End the sanctions now! U.S. out of Iraq."

To widespread agreement, Robert Bossie, a member of the 8th Day Center for Justice and one of the initiators of the action, called for another protest should the U.S. attack Iraq, which many speakers at the rally noted to be likely. The protest will be at 4:30 p.m. on the day of any attack. It will again be at the federal building in downtown Chicago.

Similar actions took place this week across the United States.

Joshua Carroll

40,000 farmers march in Dublin to protest falling prices

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

LONDON — About 40,000 farmers and their families throughout the Republic of Ireland marched in Dublin October 28 and rallied outside parliament, the Dail, to demand a living income.

The march was called by the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) and the Irish Creamery Suppliers Association, both of which are dominated by well-heeled farmers with big holdings. IFA president Tom Parlon said the action was held to protest "government and European Union inaction on the collapsing farm incomes, disastrous cattle, pig and sheep prices, including red tape and bureaucracy."

Prior to the march, organizers anticipated a turnout of 15,000. Nearly three times that number took part, showing the anger building among the farmers.

Prices for beef that farmers sell on the market have fallen sharply, along with a significant drop in beef consumption in European Union markets due to the "mad cow" disease crisis. Exports of beef and other meat products have also fallen sharply in trade with Russia and countries in Asia, due to the economic crisis that has engulfed those countries. Bad weather has also created a serious fodder problem for the poorest farmers along the west coast of Ireland, many of whom have little or no winter feed for their animals. Sheep farmers in the west are also being forced to remove 200,000 ewes from the mountainsides, according to a European Union directive claiming the land is being overgrazed. Prices paid to farmers for sheep have collapsed.

"The facts show that for most farmers this has been one of the worst years," said an article in the October 29 *Irish Times*. "Before long thousands of them are likely to go out of business."

The number of farmers has been declining rapidly. Workers in agriculture have fallen from 390,000 in 1960 to 134,000 last year. Class differentiation and the income gap among farmers is also widening. "Basically two-thirds of the farming community barely scrape by and independent research has shown just over 50,000 farms are com-

mercially viable," said the *Irish Times*.

Among Irish farmers, 63 percent make less than £10,000 (\$15,000) per year and 60 percent supplement their farm income with wages from other full or part-time jobs. Only 7 percent of farms have an annual income exceeding £30,000 (\$45,000).

The demonstrators in Dublin pressed four demands. The first was the extension of Family Income Supplement act to cover low-income farmers, which the government opposes. Second was pressing the government to force the big beef processing companies to pay higher prices to the farmers for their cattle. Thirdly, they pressed for a special loan package from the banks for farmers hit by monsoon rainfall along the west coast in August and September.

"All we are harvesting in the south is black trash," said Jim O'Reagan, a farmer from Kinsale. "It's not a harvesting job, it's a salvaging job."

The marchers also demanded that the Irish government veto changes in the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which are currently under discussion. These changes include cuts in the guaranteed prices paid to farmers for beef, milk and cereals over the next four years. The effect of these changes will be to squeeze the smaller farmers, pushing a further layer off the land. This is the long-term restructuring of agriculture the CAP aims to drive through. Since 1972 the operation of the Mansholt Plan has meant that farms categorized as "transitional," that is, under 20 acres, have disappeared in Ireland. About 80 percent of farm subsidies in Ireland have gone to the top 20 percent of farmers.

Big-business organizations and the trade union officialdom joined forces to condemn the Dublin march as "irresponsible and selfish." The Dublin City Centre Business Association called on the organizers to keep the demonstration away from the city center so it would not disrupt business.

Peter Cassells, General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions, released a press statement the day before the march condemning it as "irresponsible and selfish."



Some 40,000 farmers marched in Dublin, Ireland, October 28 to protest plummeting market prices and to demand subsidies for lost income.

"These bully-boy tactics do nothing to help the case of the genuinely poor farmers," Cassells said. "The farming organizations should call off their invasion of Dublin. They must stop exploiting the plight of a minority of farmers and stop attacking the rights of a majority of taxpayers to travel in their own city."

The Irish Labour Party split over the issue. Labour Senator Patrick Gallagher backed the demonstration, while Bernadette Malone, Labour member of the European Parliament, said that farmers had "no right to disrupt my city." Her remarks were said to have boosted the march. "It's our city too and we have as much right to march as building workers or anyone else," responded one farmer from Tullamore.

Democratic Left member of parliament Proinsias De Rossa echoed Cassells, saying that farmers had bigger, newer houses and cars than their counterparts in town. He did not believe the farmers "year after year, forecasting doom after every wet day

and disaster with every temporary fall in the price of cattle." Defending the stance of the Fianna Fail-led coalition government, he opposed the extension of welfare payments to farming families. "It would cost up to 70 million pounds at the expense of careers, pensioners, and the health services," he argued.

Fine Gael, one of the main capitalist parties, however, came out in support of the demand for welfare payments to farm families. They called for the extension of the Family Income Support payments to be available not only to small farmers, but to all those who were self-employed.

Why fighting workers and farmers need the 'Militant'

"As a *Militant* subscriber I have made the following observation. If it is true that *Forbes* magazine is the capitalist tool, the *Militant* is the entire workshop for the working class today. It allows one to stay informed about working-class struggles around the globe as well as here in the United States.

Strike news illustrates how labor struggles are gaining and winning. Harry Ring's 'Great Society' uses articles from the capitalist press to illustrate the irony of the system geared to serve the wealthy at the workers' expense. The book section gives great insight into what socialism is today and can be tomorrow."

— J. B. Payne



J. B. Payne
Conductor United Transportation Union
Local 1370 in New York, New York.

CELEBRATE the political contributions of Helene Millington

A longtime antiracist fighter and cadre of the Socialist Workers Party for more than 20 years, Helene Millington died October 21 in Detroit at the age of 86. Come celebrate her life and political contributions.

Sunday, November 29
Reception 1:00 p.m. Program 2:00 p.m.

International Institute
111 E. Kirby in Detroit, Michigan
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SPEAKERS

Nan Bailey Seattle, SWP National Committee, member of International Association of Machinists

Shelton McCrahey, Chicago, member of United Steelworkers of America

John Sarge Chairperson of Detroit SWP, member of United Auto Workers

Jack Willey Chicago, SWP National Committee

Messages from those who knew and worked with Helene can be sent to the Detroit SWP, 7414 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. Fax: (313) 875-0932. E-mail: 104127.3505@compuserve.com

For more information call (313) 875-0100.

Immigrant rights march and conference held in Detroit

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

DETROIT — Chanting, "Raza Sí, Migra No!" 150 people marched down Vernor Avenue in southwest Detroit November 7 to oppose stepped-up immigration raids here. This was the first immigrant rights march in the Detroit Mexican community in recent times.

Local residents have become increasingly angered by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raids at nearby factories, parks, and homes. The immigration cops also picked up undocumented workers as they were leaving an English-language class at Holy Redeemer Church. Organized protests against the INS dragnet targeting of Mexican workers have been gaining momentum.

In early October protesters picketed the INS headquarters on Jefferson Avenue. A couple weeks later 65 people turned out to confront INS agents who had been invited to speak at a meeting called by the GI Forum, a Chicano veterans organization.

One of the sponsors of the November 7 march, the Xicano Development Center, organized activists, many of them young Chicanos, to leaflet stores and churches to build

the march. Local radio stations ran public service announcements for the event. The marchers were enthusiastically greeted along the route by people who came out of the shops and restaurants that line Vernor Avenue to show their support. Passing cars honked in solidarity.

About half of the participants were Chicano and Latino activists attending the Latin@s United in Labor conference in downtown Detroit. The importance of defending immigrant rights, which are increasingly under attack, not only in Detroit, but in cities across the country, was one of the main questions taken up by the conference. Participants prepared picket signs and then carpooled from their meeting to the assembly site.

They included rank-and-file United Auto Workers members from Chrysler's Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio, and from several other auto plants in Michigan. Members of the Chicano student group MEChA at Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, and University of Toledo also attended, as well as activists from the Latino Workers Center and other groups in New



Militant/John Sarge

Some 150 people protested stepped-up immigration raids in Detroit November 7

York and members of the Communication Workers of America from Los Angeles. The United Farm Workers of America and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) also had representatives at the conference.

Keynote speakers at the conference included FLOC president Baldemar Velásquez and Juan José Gutiérrez from One Stop Im-

migration. Johanna Tablada and Félix Wilson from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. also spoke at the event.

Buoyed by the success of the march, the Latin@s United in Labor conference voted at its final session to call for a national march for immigrant rights in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 29, 1999.

Hundreds greet Cuban photographer in Seattle

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

SEATTLE — More than 500 people turned out to meet and hear acclaimed Cuban photographer Alberto Korda during a three-day visit here. An overflow, standing-room-only crowd of more than 300 filled a Seattle University event October 30 for Korda's slide show and lecture titled, "Cuba: Diary of a Revolution."

Korda accompanied Cuban leader Fidel Castro in an official capacity from 1959 to 1969. Korda's photographic images are among the best known of that era. Perhaps his most well-known photo, of Cuban revolutionary leader Che Guevara titled, "Heroic Guerrilla," is among the most reproduced images in the history of photography.

Prior to the Cuban revolution in 1959 Korda was a prominent fashion photographer. With tens of thousands of other Cu-

bans he was in the streets of Havana to greet the Rebel Army led by the July 26 Movement and Fidel Castro as they marched into the city that January. Korda, attracted as he explained, "by the power of the moment," took a photograph — also well known — of Castro and rebel army leader Camilo Cienfuegos. He donated the photo to the newspaper *Revolución*, an organ of the July 26 Movement, which ran it prominently. Shortly thereafter, Korda explained, the director of the newspaper appointed him Castro's personal photographer for a trip to Venezuela and New York. In that capacity he continued to travel with the Cuban revolutionary leader across Cuba and the world.

Korda told the crowd, "I feel honored that a Cuban and a revolutionary can be welcomed at this university." In showing one slide, an early photo titled, "The child with a

doll made of wood," he described his experience traveling with Castro to a peasant village. There he photographed the child, who looked in amazement at Korda's photographic apparatus as she stroked a piece of wood. Her family was so poor she did not even have a doll. That moment helped Korda decide "to devote my life to the revolution that would change these inequalities." That devotion has "continued to today, and I am 70 years old."

In response to a question about cultural life in Cuba now, Korda explained that the revolution opened the doors of culture to most Cubans for the first time. "Cuban culture under capitalism was very poor," the photographer said. Most people did not have access to the most elementary materials to create art of any kind. The revolution changed that.

Cuba remains a relatively poor country economically, and one that has suffered from decades of a U.S. trade embargo. Korda noted that despite enormous advances in many fields of art and the opening of arts education to ordinary people, there is still no photography school. The reason is economic. Photographic supplies — from cameras to film, chemicals, photographic paper, and machinery — are very expensive. Nevertheless, he noted a burgeoning interest in photography in Cuba and an enormous increase in interest in the subject among young women.

A questioner asked Korda, "So what do you think of Mr. Castro?"

"First," Korda replied, "no one calls him 'Mr.' Everyone calls him Fidel." This is how Castro prefers it, Korda said, because the Cuban president is not interested in titles. Castro, Korda continued, "is one of the most important men of the 20th century." When the revolution triumphed, Korda explained, some people thought it would not last very long. "But here we are 40 years later."

Korda's visit was organized by a group of Seattle area photographers with support from the Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee and others. A reception for the photographer attracted more than 200 people to the Photo Center Gallery on November 1. Korda's work is on display at the gallery, located at 900 Twelfth Ave., Seattle, through November 30. His trip began in Los Angeles, where an exhibit of Korda's work is showing at Couturier Gallery, 166 N. La Brea Ave., through November 28.

Geoff Mirelowitz is a member of United Transportation Union Local 845.

Hmong win apology for racist remarks from radio station in Minnesota

BY MAREAH IMELGRIN

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — In a victory for human dignity, the KQRS morning radio show has been forced to publicly apologize for racist on-the-air comments concerning Hmong people. "It took four months, but I think KQRS finally realized it had to do the right thing," Community Action Against Racism (CAAR) organizer Va-Megn Thoj said at a news conference October 29 in the offices of the Hmong-American Partnership in St. Paul.

CAAR has organized two protest marches and a boycott campaign aimed at the popular "KQ Morning Show" after local shock-jock Tom Bernard did a June 9, 1998, segment ridiculing a Hmong teenager who allegedly suffocated her newborn baby. Bernard wound up his commentary by advising the Hmong, "Assimilate or hit the goddamn road!"

The protest campaign by CAAR has led TV news broadcasts and been front-page news in the Twin Cities for several months. Many prominent advertisers, including the Mall of America, Norwest Bank, and Perkins Restaurants, have pulled their ads from the morning show.

The radio station initially claimed that it found CAAR's four demands "confusing." The group demanded a public apology; elimination of the pidgen-speaking Asian character Tak from the morning show; a public statement of KQRS's nondiscrimination policy; and airtime for CAAR to promote an antiracist message.

Bernard told listeners to his top-rated show on October 20, "I don't feel bad about

any of this.... Everybody gets the same amount of love on the show. Everybody gets the same amount of hate on the show." Bernard urged listeners to boycott the companies boycotting his show. He also referred to CAAR as the "thought police."

In competition with the Howard Stern show, which airs on a rival station at the same time, the KQ Morning Show, features vulgar commentary on current events and issues. A columnist for the *Star Tribune* described the station's apology as comparable to "a bar apologizing for tequila and lime in its margaritas."

The KQ Morning show strongly backed Reform Party candidate Jesse Ventura for Governor, ridiculing the Democratic and Republican candidates.

Ventura's victory speech is featured on the station's web page. One link on the site is to the "Rage" section. The link's graphics include a border of dripping blood. Listeners are urged to vent their rage over politics and other topics.

Fans of the KQ morning show have been using the site to voice resentment against Hmong immigrants who stand up for their rights, among others. Ratings for the morning show appear to have increased since antiracist protests aimed at the station have drawn attention to it.

The Disney Company owns KQRS. Mark Steinmetz, president of the ABC Radio Station Group, began personally intervening in negotiations with CAAR beginning in September. A public apology printed in many local newspapers and read over KQRS on November 5 is signed by Steinmetz. The

apology agrees to all four of CAAR's demands.

Steinmetz attended a packed public meeting at the Hmong American Partnership on October 16. The discussion was heated. Mel Reeves, a member of the International Association of Machinists at Northwest Airlines as well as CAAR and the NAACP, told the station's representatives, "I want to make it clear we are not here to be bought off. We're not talking about insensitivity. We're talking about damage to this city, community, and people in this room. What is going on in the morning show is definitely racist. We're not just talking about the June 9 show."

In a transparent attempt to divide the Hmong community, Steinmetz organized a public meeting October 17 with the Elders of the Eighteen Hmong Clan Council. CAAR's membership and leadership is composed primarily of teenagers and Hmong youth in their early 20s.

The attempt to divide the community failed. Xang Vang made forceful comments on behalf of the Elders and proposed that the parties agree to hold further meetings as soon as possible to "clear this matter up once and for all."

CAAR representative, Va-Megn Thoj, told reporters after the meeting, "KQ thought that they could gloss over the issues with the elders. This shows that we are united. This community wants action against media racism and discrimination."

Marea Himelgrin is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

Pathfinder

Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58

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This book is his firsthand account of the military campaigns and political events that culminated in the January 1959 popular insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba. \$23.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder.

London electricians strike for safety

BY PAMELA HOLMES

LONDON — "Safety first — no fast track to the graveyard," read placards carried by striking electricians working on the Jubilee Line Extension (JLE). More than 600 members of the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union (AEEU) walked out November 16 over company attempts to victimize workers for protesting unsafe working practices.

About 500 of the electricians are employed by the contractor Drake & Scull (D&S). They are building an 11-mile extension to the London underground transport system, with a completion deadline of the opening of the Millennium Dome in 1999.

On November 11, fire alarms were sounded at London Bridge station as part of an evacuation drill. When the fire brigade arrived, electricians were still in the tunnels underground. The temporary fire alarm system was not working. Later, 12 workers who led protests about the unsafe working conditions, including the union safety representative, were told they were being transferred to another site. This was in blatant violation of the strict "last in, first out" policy that

had been established on the job by union members. The D&S workers were already in dispute with the company over hours.

Strikers are confident that by sticking together they can defend job safety. "If they want to cross our picket lines, let them have a go!" declared Steve Kelly, one of the strike leaders at the Waterloo site.

The D&S workers have been joined by electricians working for other contractors on the job. "We are not cannon fodder and we are not expendable," senior steward Tony Miller said at a November 18 mass meeting attended by up to 400 strikers. A striker from the Bermondsey site said the same failure of fire alarms had happened there two months ago. "They had warning. People could die." Picketing is seven days a week, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at all JLE sites.

Pamela Holmes is a member of the AEEU. Rose Knight contributed to this article.



Striking engineers on the Jubilee Line Extension on the picket line. Unionists are demanding better working conditions.

Militant/Pete Clifford

70,000 teachers in Quebec strike over pay equity

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL, Quebec — More than 70,000 teachers, members of the Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec (CEQ), or Quebec Teachers Federation, walked off the job November 18. Their union approved the job action days earlier, despite an ordinance by the Quebec Essential Services Council threatening them with heavy fines and charges of contempt of court.

This one-day action, the first CEQ work stoppage since 1989, affected one million students from kindergarten to senior high school. It was the latest in a series of initiatives by the labor movement during the current campaign for the November 30 Quebec elections. It has been many years since the unions have been involved in such a number of struggles during a preelection period. This is a reflection of the growing resistance among union members to the severe cuts in social services and programs by the Parti Québécois (PQ) administration over the last four years.

On October 24, the CEQ organized a demonstration of 15,000 teachers, the biggest labor march in Quebec City in many years.

During the election campaign, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees in Quebec distributed one million copies of a four-page glossy newspaper raising questions about the programs of the two main parties running in these elections: the PQ and the Quebec Liberal Party. The Quebec Elections director found the paper too partisan in favor of the PQ and asked for an injunction to prevent its distribution. The Quebec ballot law prevents the union from using its funds to support one or another

party running in the election. It also bars unions from giving financial support to any party.

The Confederation of National Trade Unions has also announced other actions during the elections, such as a November 23 demonstration in Mirabel, 30 miles north of Montreal, to support a union organizing drive at the NMF Manufacturing plant. The bosses there are attempting to squash the unionization drive.

The CEQ is demanding what it calls pay equity. Part of this demand is allowing women teachers to reach wage parity with men. Because of their oppression as a second sex, women teachers tend to be more concentrated in the primary and secondary school levels, and since those grades require less education than higher ones, teachers earn less. The CEQ is demanding the recognition of experience in teachers' wage structure so those with less years of education can eventually reach the same wage maximum. The difference could add up to several thousand dollars a year. The CEQ is also demanding wage increases across the board. Quebec teachers earn on average 77 percent of their counterparts in neighboring Ontario.

"The government's current threats against

the CEQ represent the most serious attack on the labor movement in Quebec in many years," said Annette Kouri and Michel Dugré, the two candidates of the Communist League in the Quebec elections, in a November 16 statement. "The whole labor movement needs to come to the support of the teachers."

"The Quebec government pretends that the CEQ action would deprive students of a service they are entitled to. But in reality the teachers are the ones defending quality education against the government. They are now on the front lines of the growing resistance by workers against cuts in social services and programs by capitalist governments under the pretext of cutting budget deficits. The teachers mobilizations hurt the capitalist rulers attempts to cut social services in order to maintain their profits."

Through their mobilization for better education, the teachers are also pointing the way forward in the fight against Quebecois national oppression, the two communist candidates said.

On November 8, the Montreal daily *La Presse* printed the results of a study by the Quebec government showing that Quebecois students lag behind their English-speak-

ing counterparts at school. The study shows that five years after entering high school the proportion of students getting their diploma is around 26 percent higher among anglophones than Quebecois. Natives fair far worse than Quebecois.

"The teachers' mobilizations for better education is key in taking steps in the fight against this aspect of national oppression," Kouri and Dugré stated.

"The limitations on the right of the unions to give their support, including financially, to one or another party represent an unacceptable intrusion by a capitalist government in the life of the unions and a denial of the rights of their members. As the crisis deepens, along with the attacks on our living and working conditions and on our social services, workers will feel more and more the need to act politically independent of the bosses. More workers will try to use our unions to launch our own party, a party that will help unite all workers and fight against unemployment and for Quebec independence. This will be a key instrument in a common struggle with our brothers and sisters across Canada for the establishment of a workers and farmers government in Ottawa."

Standard Motors strikers return to work

BY DON MACKLE

QUEENS, New York — At a November 12 rally of nearly 300 unionists, striking members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 365 at Standard Motors Corp. got word that

they would be going back to work under a deal worked out by the company and union officials. A contract settlement still has not been reached.

"We are going back unconditionally," said Daniel Cintron, a shop steward at the plant of about 170 union workers. "No one was fired, everyone is going back in. We are going to keep talking with the company, and if nothing good comes of it, we will walk out again."

The rally was in the sixth week of the strike. Union officials had leafleted two other shops organized by the amalgamated local — Eagle Electric and Cecilware — earlier in the week. Yellow school buses helped shuttle workers from Eagle to the rally.

The Standard Motors workers had been forced out on strike by company demands that included a three-year contract with no pay raise, a proposal to end medical benefits to retirees, requiring working members to pay \$50 a month for their health coverage, and cuts in sick days and holidays. Eighteen workers had crossed the picket line during the strike.

The mood of the workers was overwhelmingly upbeat and defiant. "It's about time this large corporation gave some respect back to labor," said Paras Ramdeo, a worker with 22 years in the plant. "This should encourage other people like myself to be united and militant."

"While we're inside we're still going to fight," said Eddy Mary a 28-year veteran of the plant. The main complaint workers ex-

pressed as they discussed the settlement was returning in three waves over the next eight days. "We've been out for six weeks with our brothers and sisters and we should go back in together," Mary said. "Even so, we're still strong and ready to go out anytime the union says. We're fighting for a cause and we must win it."

Clara Morrow has worked at the plant for 40 years. "I didn't get scared when we started this fight and I'm not scared about fighting now," she said. "We came out here for our brothers and sisters and for a good cause. We are going back in with the same spirit we came out."

The unionists stood up to a highly organized company campaign to break the strike and the union. Strikebreakers from out of town arrived immediately after the strike began and lived inside the plant for several weeks. Special security guards were brought in. Letters were sent to the strikers at home attempting to pressure them to return to work. The letters tried to divide the union by blaming union officials for calling the strike. Some highly skilled workers received phone calls at home asking them to return to work.

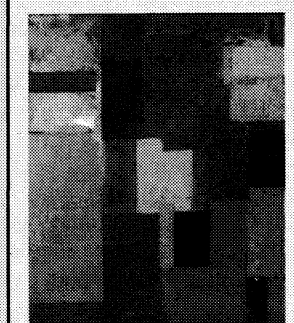
Standard Motors is one of the 10 largest publicly traded company in Queens. It manufactures auto replacement parts. Its net earnings for the third quarter of this year were \$10 million, a 39 percent increase over the same period a year ago.

Don Mackle is a member of UAW Local 365 at Cecilware.

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

WORKING-CLASS POLITICS AND THE TRADE UNIONS

JACK BARNES
THE CHANGING FACE
OF U.S. POLITICS
Working-class politics and the unions



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Miami picket: free Camacho

Continued from front page

to stand trial before an English-speaking jury, though most of the "evidence" was in Spanish.

Most of the defendants were denied bail and jailed for more than a year awaiting trial. Two remain in prison today, Camacho and Juan Segarra Palmer, who was sentenced to 65 years.

Camacho was released from prison on February 13 of this year after serving more than 11 years of a 15-year sentence. He was welcomed back to Puerto Rico two days later by hundreds who met him at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan.

At a February 20 news conference Camacho announced that he would not comply with the restrictions that were a part of his release on parole. These called for him to report to the federal building in San Juan every 72 hours and forbid him to associate with other "convicted felons." He was met at the airport upon his release by Rafael Cancel Miranda and Lolita Lebrón, both of who spent more than 25 years in U.S. prisons after they took part in an armed demonstration in the U.S. Congress in 1954 to protest the colonial exploitation of Puerto Rico.

Camacho was rearrested on April 16 at a friend's house in Naranjito, Puerto Rico, by U.S. marshals who charged him with violating the conditions of his parole. The next day he was flown to the United States and held in Miami. Since then, Camacho has been further sentenced to four years in prison.

In the months since Camacho was brought to Miami there has been a press blackout on his situation. The picket line held on November 14 received coverage on three local television stations.

At the picket line, Angelo Negrón of the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners chapter in Orlando, Florida, said the Committee has had word from Camacho that he supported the action at the prison. "Despite pressure on him to stay quiet, Antonio wanted us to know that he's glad we were out here," Negrón said.

The picket was attended by people from Orlando, Tampa, and St. Petersburg, Florida, in addition to Miami.

After the picket line, activists held a forum and speak-out at the Pathfinder Bookstore, with presentations by representatives of the National Committee to Free the Pu-

erto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners, the Antonio Maceo Brigade, and the Socialist Workers Party. Irving Forestier, representing the Orlando chapter of the National Committee, stated, "We must be committed to the struggle until the last Puerto Rican political prisoner is out of jail."

The speak-out received photo coverage in the *Nuevo Herald*, the major Spanish-language daily in Miami, with a banner in the background featuring the demand "Free Camacho and Puerto Rican Political Prisoners."

Activists in Orlando are organizing a picket at the Federal Building in that city on November 21. Juan Segarra Palmer is held at the U.S. Penitentiary in Coleman near Orlando.



Rally to release of Antonio Camacho in Miami November 14

Latin American political parties meet and debate revolution vs. reform of capitalism

BY FRANCISCO PICADO
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MEXICO CITY — Representatives of political parties from around Latin America and the Caribbean gathered here October 29–November 1 for the eighth meeting of the São Paulo Forum. The first such meeting was held in São Paulo, Brazil, at the initiative of the Workers Party (PT) in that country. The seventh gathering was also held in São Paulo in August 1997.

Nearly 210 delegates and observers took part in this year's conference. They included delegations from 44 parties that are members of the forum in 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Observers came from another three countries in the region. The largest delegations outside Mexico came from Brazil, Argentina, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. Many delegates were elected officials in local, state, or national government posts. About 160 of the participants came from Latin America and the Caribbean. Attendance from the English-speaking Caribbean nations was very sparse.

Among the 51 observers from 31 organizations in various other parts of the world were a number from political parties in western Europe (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sweden), the Communist Party of Japan, as well as from the governing parties in China, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Laos, Libya, Vietnam, and Yugoslavia. Representatives of the Irish Republican party Sinn Féin, the Basque nationalist party Herri Batasuna, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Polisario Front of Western Sahara also attended. The only organization present from the United States was the Socialist Workers Party. No one came from Canada.

Diverging political courses

The spreading of the "Asian crisis" to Russia, and the possibility of its explosion in Latin America, as well as the threat of an international collapse of capitalism's bank-

ing system was the backdrop to what the organizers referred to as the struggle against "neoliberalism." The term refers to capitalist government policies that remove protectionist measures and open up semicolonial economies to freer penetration by imperialist capital.

The gathering was titled "The left faces the new millennium." As with previous conferences, two political courses clearly at variance were presented in the discussion — one oriented towards reforming the capitalist system through bourgeois electoral politics, and the other a revolutionary socialist perspective. Those arguing for the latter were in the minority.

The forces of the bourgeois left were led by the Party of Democratic Revolution (PRD), which hosted the meeting, with the help of three other organizations in Mexico: the Party of Labor (PT), Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), and Popular Socialist Party (PPS).

At the inaugural event at the Siquieros Cultural Polyforum facilities, PRD leader Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, who is now mayor of Mexico City, said that the voices calling for reform of economic development policies are gaining momentum. He celebrated "the recent changes of government in France, Great Britain, Italy, Germany, and other countries in the European Union." Social democratic parties or coalitions now rule 13 of the 15 European Union member countries.

Cárdenas and other PRD leaders lamented that the same winds that brought social democracy in power in western Europe "are not blowing as strong in Latin America." He made no reference to the upturn in working-class resistance to the belt-tightening policies of the employing classes in the last few years that's underneath the shift to the left in bourgeois politics reflected in Europe and other imperialist countries.

During the first plenary session of the conference, Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez of

the PRD, head of the Office of the Secretary of the Environment in Mexico City, pointed to rising social problems in the country's capital with 22 million people, including unemployment that he said exceeds 8 percent. Under the slogan "a city for all," Encinas said the PRD is above all trying to fight crime by increasing the number of police in the streets and to "restore the public's confidence in public institutions."

Similar perspectives were presented by Marco Aurelio García of Brazil's PT and Nidia Díaz of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador. Díaz, now a deputy in that country's parliament, said the electoral gains of the FMLN in winning 54 mayorships and other elected posts are steps "toward a democratic revolution."

The socialist road

The most forceful and clear voice for a revolutionary perspective was presented by the delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba, which was headed by José Ramón Balaguer, a member of the party's Political Bureau.

"Today, part of the world is already suffering from the lashes of the financial crisis of capitalism," Balaguer said in his speech at the inaugural event of the gathering. "The crisis has already broken some of the links in the chain and is extending to others," he stated, referring to the economic and social turmoil in Indonesia and elsewhere in Asia. "It threatens to become a globalized crisis, the course of which depends to a large degree on what happens here in Latin America in the coming months."

Balaguer was making these comments as Washington and other imperialist powers were cobbling together, through the International Monetary Fund (IMF), more than \$40 billion in new loans to Brazil to "rescue" that country from the "Asian flu" and increase its domination by imperialism in the process. Implementation of the IMF package will mean new levels of austerity against working people there.

"Those who toy with the illusion that they have enough money to buy a luxury cabin in Noah's ark to spare themselves, and themselves alone, from the universal flood are wrong," Balaguer said.

Even the main imperialist powers are not immune to the crisis. The capitalist monopolies, Balaguer noted, "cut employment and wages to maintain their profits and all they accomplish is to undercut the very market their existence depends on. And as they accumulate irrational quantities of fictitious capital they do nothing more than create the conditions for an economic catastrophe of unprecedented proportions."

Given this reality, the Cuban leader pointed out, progressive forces need to

struggle for an alternative world order, not try to improve the existing capitalist world order.

Balaguer addressed the conference a second time, during the plenary session on "Latin America and its integration in the world."

"The left can and must have a decisive role in any collaborative or unity process among all the forces in the region that are willing to work to strengthen integration, sovereignty, and independence," Balaguer stated. "But the conditions for such alliances cannot be laid by abandoning our banner for socialism and the profound social transformations that are needed." This process is not acceptable if it is to be done "by submitting to the projects of those who who propose supposed 'new roads,' return to variants of capitalism with a facelift or to models already surpassed by life, which can only benefit the interests of the existing system."

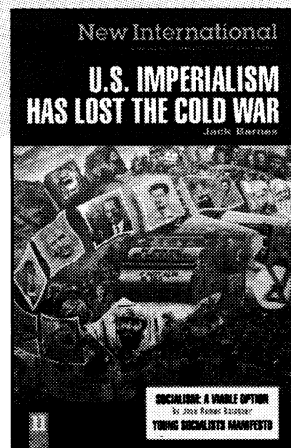
"Why struggle to adapt ourselves to the world instead of fighting for a new world?" the Cuban leader asked. "What is needed is a new world order that places human beings at the center of its concerns, that universalizes solidarity and social justice... that is capable of replacing the anarchy of the market and of leading society to direct the world according to the interests of humanity."

Debate on final declaration

A few other delegates raised similar points during the debate on the draft of the final declaration presented by the forum's Working Group. The draft had few references to anti-imperialist struggles and the word socialism did not appear in it once.

One of the delegates who objected to its content was Julio Muriente Pérez, representing the New Independence Movement of Puerto Rico (formerly the Puerto Rican Socialist Party). "The declaration presents parliamentarianism as a strategy, not a tactic," Muriente said. As if all we had to do is get elected to governmental posts in Latin America. "Let's not forget the experience in Chile," he stated, referring to the overthrow of the Salvador Allende government in Chile in 1973. Allende's Socialist Party had won parliamentary elections. A military coup headed by Augusto Pinochet and backed by Washington toppled Allende, who had not heeded calls by the revolutionary government in Cuba to arm working people to defend themselves against the coming rightist onslaught.

The delegates could not reach agreement on a common document by the end of the meeting. The draft declaration was referred to the Working Group for further elaboration. The time and place of the next meeting of the São Paulo Forum was also left open.



U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

JACK BARNES

- IN THIS ISSUE: Ours is the Epoch of World Revolution JACK BARNES AND MARY-ALICE WATERS
- Socialism: A Viable Option JOSÉ RAMÓN BALAGUER
- Young Socialists Manifesto

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U.S. gov't has trigger cocked to bomb Iraq

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The U.S. government has the trigger cocked to launch a bombing assault on the Iraqi people despite the 11th-hour agreement by Baghdad to allow United Nations "weapons inspectors" access to its territory. "Allies see bombing of Iraq as inevitable," blared the front-page headline of the November 17 *New York Times*, three days after Washington called off an imminent onslaught.

The Iraqi government had announced October 31 that it would end all cooperation with UN inspectors until economic sanctions are lifted. U.S. defense secretary William Cohen declared Baghdad would face massive bombing raids if it did not reverse its decision.

As Washington geared up for the first stage of its military assault, the Iraqi government sent a letter November 14 to UN secretary-general Kofi Annan stating, "Iraq decided to resume working with the [UN] Special Commission ... to allow them to perform their normal duties.... We affirm that the people of Iraq would not relinquish their legitimate right in having the iniquitous embargo lifted and to live normally like other nations of the world."

The White House initially said the Iraqi offer was unacceptable. But the next day, after a number of Washington's imperialist allies who had indicated they would go along with the planned military strikes argued for accepting the Iraqi letter, U.S. president William Clinton stated: "Iraq has backed down, but that is not enough. Now Iraq must live up to its obligations."

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Henry Shelton asserted that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein "saw how fast our response came. The next time it could come quicker."

"This time there was really only two weeks between the 30th of October and the decision to use force," British prime minister Anthony Blair chimed in. London was the only other imperialist power with forces ready to join Washington in the bombings. "Next time there won't be any negotiation at all — there will be just action," Blair said. If Baghdad does not go along with the demands of the UN inspectors one more time there would be "no warnings, no wrangling, no negotiations, no last-minute letters.... The next withdrawal of cooperation and he will be hit."

Blair said British bombers were ready to launch immediate raids without warning on Iraq. London has 12 Tornado ground attack aircraft in Kuwait, which would carry out 20 percent of the U.S.-planned bombing missions against Iraq.

According to U.S. officials, the first stage of the imperialist onslaught was called off November 14 at 8:45 a.m., just 15 minutes before Washington's war machine prepared to rain 300 cruise missiles on Iraq. The missile assault would be followed by bombing raids. Seven B-52s each loaded with 20 cruise missiles, four B-1 bombers, and dozens of F-14 and F-18 fighter jets would be used. The first wave of the assault would last several days. The Pentagon estimated that up to 10,000 people could be killed in Iraq.

After Baghdad's offer to allow the return of UN inspectors, the Pentagon said November 15 that it would suspend deployment of additional forces to the region. But the 23,000 U.S. soldiers, nearly 200 aircraft, and 23 Navy ships already in the Arab-Persian Gulf would remain. A second aircraft carrier, the *Enterprise*, that is sailing toward the Gulf will get there before the end of

November.

What led up to November 14

Until November 14, there had been no vocal opposition from many of the regimes in the Arab countries to the U.S. plans for military strikes. The government of Egypt, for example, had opposed military action but had been urging Baghdad to make concessions rather than actively seeking to end the crisis. But after the Iraqi letter accepting UN inspectors, the Saudi Arabian government announced November 15 that it would not allow strikes against Iraq to be launched from bases on its territory. Washington currently has 6,000 U.S. military personnel and 120 warplanes stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Washington provoked the latest crisis, as previous ones, by trying to squash any steps toward easing the draconian embargo on Iraq. On August 5 the Iraqi government prohibited the UN Special Commission agents from conducting surprise "inspections," after it became clear that these spying operations would continue indefinitely. Three months later, on October 31, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein announced his government would prohibit any UN inspections or monitoring, after Washington excluded mentioning Paragraph 22 of UN resolution 687 in the UN Security Council's draft of its review of Baghdad's compliance with the UN "inspection" program. That section explicitly states that once Iraq is declared free of "weapons of mass destruction" the oil embargo will be lifted.

"We saw that the U.S. is not going to let the UN ease sanctions, regardless of what we do," said Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's ambassador to United Nations.

Washington then prepared rapidly for a massive military assault. It also tried to stop

attempts by UN secretary general Kofi Annan to broker a deal to forestall military action. According to the November 23 issue of *Time* magazine, Clinton and U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright were on the phone all week leading up to November 14 trying to stop Annan from making a visit to Baghdad or sending an appeal to the Iraqi regime to back down. "We did a remarkable job isolating Saddam and the secretary-general undermined that," said an unnamed U.S. government official, according to *Time*.

Earlier this year, Annan brokered a deal that while averting a U.S. military strike, legitimized the use of military might and put Washington on a hair trigger for another possible assault. Backed by a massive U.S. armada in the Arab-Persian Gulf, Annan wrested an accord from the Iraqi government February 23 that allowed the UN inspectors to have "immediate, unconditional, and unrestricted access" throughout the country. Baghdad received nothing in return except a vague acknowledgment that "lifting of sanctions is obviously of paramount importance to the people and government of Iraq."

Interimperialist conflict

Washington's latest confrontation in the Middle East highlights once again the ongoing rivalry between the U.S. rulers and their hangers-on in Britain on one hand and other imperialist allies — particularly Paris. French foreign minister Hubert Védrine reacted indignantly to remarks by U.S. Senator John McCain, who apparently accused Paris of tipping off Baghdad that U.S. war planes were heading toward an imminent military strike. "I find that this is a shameful and completely idiotic accusation," Védrine said on French radio November 16.

Paris has opposed military action against Iraq, in the hopes that once sanctions are lifted, French oil companies can regain prominent trade positions in the region.

The governments of Russia and China have also opposed military action against Iraq and were among the members of the UN security council that pushed for accepting the deal with Baghdad on November 14.

"They are arguing to take yes for an answer, and we're saying it's a fraudulent yes," an unnamed Clinton administration official was quoted in the November 23 *Time* saying. "We'll be prepared to act alone if we have to."

Calls to overthrow Saddam Hussein

After putting on hold the plan for bombing raids, both Clinton and Blair spoke overtly about stepping up efforts to overthrow the Iraqi regime. The U.S. rulers are divided, however, on what course of action will help achieve their aim of establishing a U.S. protectorate in Iraq. "Weary of endless confrontations with Iraq, President Clinton,

Continued on Page 14

Cuba volunteers doctors, calls for world effort to aid Haiti and Central America

BY MARTIN KOPPEL
AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

HAVANA, Cuba — A volunteer brigade of 13 Cuban medical professionals who spent 47 days in the Dominican Republic offering health care to residents of areas devastated by Hurricane Georges received a warm welcome on its return to Havana November 13.

Cuban health minister Carlos Dotres, who greeted the internationalist volunteers at dawn at the José Martí International Airport in this city, said, "We are very proud of the work they have carried out with dedication, selflessness, and modesty," the Cuban daily *Granma* reported November 13.

Addressing a sizable group of reporters, Doctor Elías Valdés, head of the brigade, described some of their experiences. During their intense period of work, the Cuban volunteers performed 5,000 medical examinations and more than 120 surgical procedures. "Just a few hours ago, right at the Dominican airport, the last examination was completed," he reported.

On their arrival in Santo Domingo, capital of Cuba's sister Caribbean nation, the volunteer brigade encountered substantial damage, beginning with the airport, which had no electricity. It took them 24 hours to reach the town of Vicente Noble, which had been "heavily punished" by the hurricane.

Valdés noted that within a few days after beginning their work, busloads of patients began to arrive, even from remote regions, "because we want to be seen by Cuban doctors," they would say. The brigade was made up of surgeons, obstetricians, pediatricians, epidemiologists, nurses, and anesthesiologists.

Dotres also reported there are now four volunteer medical brigades in Central America as part of revolutionary Cuba's response to the social catastrophe precipitated by Hurricane Mitch. These include nearly 60 doctors, nurses, and technicians in Honduras and Guatemala, who are working un-



Granma/Jorge López

Cuban doctor Elías Valdés, right, head of the health brigade in Dominican Republic, delivers plaque he received from that country's ministry of health to Cuban health minister Carlos Dotres.

der difficult conditions in remote areas where other doctors will not go. The disaster has left 30,000 people dead or missing, and the specter of epidemics is hovering over the region.

The Cuban government previously announced it was canceling Nicaragua's \$50 million debt to Cuba. A few imperialist governments have since then announced they are writing off Nicaragua's debts to them, including Paris, which canceled a \$70 million debt. The contrast between Cuba's gesture and that of much larger and immensely wealthier imperialist powers was not lost for many in Central America.

The Nicaraguan government, which has so far refused to accept the offer of Cuban volunteer doctors, publicly thanked both Havana and Paris for writing off its debt.

Here in Cuba, the move by their government has been popular among many working people, who are horrified by the social consequences of the destruction wrought in Central America and outraged by the callous response of Washington and other imperialist governments.

At the Havana airport, Health Minister Dotres also announced that the following day five Cuban medical specialists would

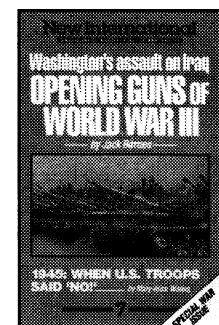
accompany President René Préval of Haiti on his return from a state visit to Cuba. Their job is to conduct a joint study with the Haitian health ministry to prepare the way for a contingent of 200-300 Cuban doctors who are due to arrive in Haiti by the end of the year. This includes a group of family doctors who will be able to provide health care to between 50,000 and 100,000 people.

In a November 9 speech, Cuban president Fidel Castro outlined this proposed health plan. He said Cuba would send as many doctors and other medical personnel as needed to reduce Haiti's infant mortality rate from 135 to 35 per 1,000 live births — which he estimated could save the lives of 20,000 children in one year. Castro called on the governments of the most industrialized countries to finance this health plan. He said Cuba was equally prepared "to mobilize and send as many doctors as necessary for a health program in all of Central America."

What Haiti needs, Castro said, is "not invasions by soldiers but invasions by doctors, teachers, and millions of dollars for economic and social development. I believe this is a duty of humanity with regard to the countries of the Third World, especially those that are the most impoverished."

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Labor Party holds convention in Pittsburgh

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

PITTSBURGH — Some 1,400 delegates to the first constitutional convention of the Labor Party met here November 13-15. The party was formed two years ago at a national gathering in Cleveland, Ohio.

More than half of the delegates were from unions, with the overwhelming majority being elected officials from their respective unions, according to a credentials report given at the end of the conference. The largest delegations came from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), with 200 people; the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (UE); the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA); and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE).

There were significant delegations at the convention from the California Nurses Association; Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC); American Federation of Government Employees; the Mailhandlers Union; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU); and the United Paperworkers International Union. There were also a layer of unionists from the Teamsters, the United Auto Workers (UAW), the Union of Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Employees (UNITE), and the Communications Workers of America (CWA). The convention also attracted a variety of radical trade unionists, socialists, and political activists in the labor movement.

The Labor Party grew out of the Labor Party Advocates, a formation initiated in 1991 at a convention of the OCAW in Denver, Colorado. Labor Party Advocates was associated with longtime OCAW official Anthony Mazzocchi, who is now the national organizer of the Labor Party.

The impetus for the LPA, as with the Labor Party today, came from the declining influence of the labor officialdom in capitalist electoral politics. Its organizers see the formation more as a pressure tactic aimed particularly at the Democratic Party. This does not mark a step toward independent working-class political action.

During the first day of the convention, United Steelworkers of America (USWA) international president George Becker gave the main speech to the delegates, though neither he nor his union are affiliated with the Labor Party.

Chauvinist rhetoric

Becker couched his presentation in radical rhetoric, referring to the "class struggle," and the "capitalists and financiers" who are destroying "our great country." Referring to workers in this country, Becker said "we" are paying the price for the collapse of the "Asian economies."

"Our jobs are being exported," Becker said, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is "using your tax dollars to bail out these countries."

Becker blamed various trade agreements — NAFTA, GATT, and efforts to establish a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) as the source of unemployment and other ills facing working people. He bemoaned that "our nation" has lost its "sovereignty." Claiming that he is not a protectionist, Becker said international trade laws have to benefit workers in Russia, South Korea, Brazil, and the United States. The best way to do that is through limiting imports by adopting quotas.

In response to Washington's military threats against Iraq, Becker said, "Here we are on the verge of war with Iraq. Think about the United States without our steel, where we would have to buy our steel from Russia or China.... Think about our missile technology being in the hands of China because their steel is cheaper to produce."

The Steelworkers president did not say anything about the battles USWA members are waging — the Titan Tire strike, the Oregon Steel lockout, the union-busting attack on the locked-out workers at Kaiser Aluminum — to name just a few.

Canadian Auto Worker (CAW) president Basil Hargrove followed Becker and was billed as the keynote speaker. Hargrove said he agreed with "brother Becker's analysis

of the world." Hargrove said the problem workers face stem from the "logic of casino capitalism." During the entire convention not one delegate took issue with the pro-imperialist, national chauvinist framework set by Becker and Hargrove.

UMWA president Cecil Roberts spoke in support of Labor Party resolutions on electoral politics and its "campaign to bring the Bill of Rights into the Workplace." He spoke about battles the UMWA waged against the coal bosses from A.T. Massey and Pittston in the 1980s, to the current strike against the Freeman United Coal Mining Co. in southern Illinois. Roberts introduced miners Dennis Braun and Lou Ashby, who are on strike against Freeman. Both received a standing ovation from the delegates.

Roberts called for repealing the Taft-Hartley Act, and passing legislation to end scabbing. The "Bill of Rights" resolution states that the government and employers have turned "democracy exactly backwards, leaving workers little or no political space to wage fights." After two delegates spoke in the discussion, the resolution was passed, with no one else joining the issues.

Debate on 'future electoral strategy'

The main resolution debated at the convention was on the Labor Party's "future electoral strategy" where delegates voted to "accept the electoral tactic of running candidates for the first time." In recent elections, all of the major union officialdoms actively endorsed Democratic candidates, including the ones represented in large numbers at the convention. (In addition, 27 Republican candidates for Congress in the recent elections were endorsed by the unions.)

The Labor Party National Council, the national leadership body, has set very strict guidelines for running candidates. One reason for tight control was expressed by Labor Party staffer Ed Bruno. He stated concern that whoever runs as a Labor Party candidate "is really a Labor Party candidate and not someone from another party."

In response to a question about when the Labor Party would be running candidates, Mazzocchi said, "Don't expect lightning to strike tomorrow."

Much of the focus of the discussion was on the need to build a "credible organizational base," out of which the Labor Party will then run candidates. "Labor Party candidates will be run only where our basic organizational criteria are met," says the resolution. One of the criteria discussed and debated was the proposal from the National Council that new chapters, in order to be chartered, must have 250 members in good standing. This is several times the number previously required. Many delegates argued that this figure is unrealistic. Those chapters that don't meet the new criteria will be relegated to the status of being a local organizing committee, and not a chapter. There was also disagreement expressed by delegates to the National Council's veto power over the selection of Labor Party candidates.

At the convention a "Solidarity Hour" with testimony of striking and locked-out workers was organized. Baldemar Velásquez, President of FLOC, spoke about his union's campaign to win recognition for 7,000 farm workers at the Mt. Olive Pickle Co., in North Carolina. During the convention FLOC held an informational meeting on their organizing drive that was attended by 100 people.

Lou Ashby, vice president of UMWA Local 1969, spoke about the miners strike against Freeman United Coal Mining Co. "Our strike is not over wages, but over the company's denial of decent health care," he said. The miner appealed to the audience for solidarity and financial aid. "Come visit our picket lines in Illinois. We'll feed you while you're there," said Ashby, who is also the Food Pantry Coordinator of the strike.

OCAW president Robert Wages introduced Bobbie Philipps, a locked-out Crown Central Petroleum worker and member of OCAW Local 4-227 in Houston, Texas. "With your continued support of our 34-month fight and our boycott we are confident we will win," Philipps told the delegates. Crown has operated with scabs since 1996. The company has accused the union of sabotage, brought in the FBI, and is seeking \$500,000 in damages from the union. Many delegates got literature on the fight at the union's table outside the convention hall.

The convention was also greeted by a representative of the October 6 Union, whose members are involved in a fight to

win union certification in a *maquiladora* industry in Mexico; by a USWA member who spoke about the company lockout of 1,000 steelworkers at Oregon Steel in Pueblo, Colorado; by Balfredo Roca, a member of UNITE and leader of a contract fight at Freeze, a garment maker in Edison, New Jersey; by three leaders of the Detroit newspaper strike; by Robert Erminger of ILWU; and by a representative of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers in Pittsburgh, who spoke about their boycott of Nabisco, which is closing the plant this week. In response to these fighting workers, several unions and individuals donated \$17,400, which will be equally split among the groups represented by the nine panelists.

Discussion on Ventura's election

Before and during the convention, the recent election victory of Reform Party candidate Jesse Ventura to governor in Minnesota was a big item of discussion. Labor Party member Michael Moore, a filmmaker and author of *Downsize This*, spoke about it in a major address to the convention. "Some of you can laugh about Ventura, but this was an incredible event regardless of what you think of the Reform Party and Ross Perot," said Moore. "This is good news. Ventura won because he sounded like a real person. He wasn't filled with that leftist rhetoric."

"There's something appealing about him — many will not agree with everything he stands for — but he did stand up for abortion rights and gay rights," Moore added. Moore's positive spin on Ventura's election victory was echoed by many at the convention. From reviewing what Ventura said in his election campaign, however, it is clear his political program is anti-working class.

Mazzocchi described Ventura as "comedic relief" whose election "was validation of the notion that people are alienated." No delegate disagreed with Moore's appraisal of Ventura from the convention floor. "Consumer advocate" Ralph Nader, who spoke on the final day, also viewed Ventura's election positively, and said that it underscored the opportunities the Labor Party has in electoral campaigns.

Labor Party delegates, with no dissenting vote, adopted a protectionist "Fair Trade" resolution. The main programmatic resolution, "A Call for Economic Justice," it says that "we reject narrowly nationalist solutions to trade imbalance that scapegoat our fellow workers in other countries." The trade resolution, however, has an "America first" logic. It reads in part, "No goods should enter this country unless the conditions of labor producing those goods adhere to a basic set of international standards. In addition, no product should be accepted into the country that comes from countries or factories, in which workers do not have the real right to organize or where those who do are intimidated, threatened or coerced."

Two debates broke out on the final day of the convention. In an amendment to the section of the program on "Restore Workers rights to Organize, Bargain and Strike," Labor Party activist Jerry Gordon, made what he said was a "friendly motion" against government intervention in the unions. "We support the democratic right of unions to run their own affairs free from government control." The convention chair responded that the amendment was not accepted. He said that individual unions should decide whether the government should be involved in their affairs. "Let's face it. The mob runs a lot of our unions and we need the government," said one delegate. The vote on the amendment divided the house. A hand vote narrowly defeated the proposed amendment.

A delegate who is a woman proposed an amendment to strengthen the Labor Party's program on "Guarantee Universal Access to Quality Health Care." The current wording includes "unimpeded access to a full range of family planning and reproductive services for men and women, including the right to continue and terminate a pregnancy." She proposed adding, "We support the right to prenatal care services and the right to a free, safe, legal abortion."

In arguing against the amendment, the Labor Party chair said, "We need to respect all members and not offend any worker who wants to join the party." The maker of the motion responded, "Not having a clear position in favor of abortion rights makes it difficult to recruit women to the Labor Party, and it puts the Labor Party to the right of the Democrats." Her amendment was defeated.

Good sales at the convention

BY CHRIS REMPLE

PITTSBURGH — Nearly 70 people attending the first constitutional convention of the Labor Party in Pittsburgh bought copies of the *Militant*. Four participants subscribed to the socialist weekly and one to its Spanish-language sister publication, *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Convention delegates approaching the table saw signs reading, "No to the Bombing of Iraq!" and "Fight for Jobs, not Steel Mill Profits."

Propped up on a rack, the first books likely to catch their eye were issues of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. Also on the rack were *The Communist Manifesto*, by Any Means Necessary by Malcolm X, *Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed, and *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

One toolmaker from Newark, New Jersey, a delegate from the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, was excited to find the table. An immigrant worker from Egypt, he bought the *Militant* and made sure he had the address of the Pathfinder bookstore in Newark and that his name would be placed on the Militant Labor Forum mailing list there.

He returned the next day and bought the *New Internationalist* no. 7, featuring "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq, as well as *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* by V.I. Lenin, and a Pathfinder catalog.

On the second day of the convention, a dairy farmer came to the table and explained that he had come to the convention to see whether this formation might be the ally that farmers needed. He had recently sold his farm and retired after being unable to make a living at it. He bought a *Militant* after a dis-



Militant/Tony Lane
"No to bombing of Iraq!" read one sign on Pathfinder table.

cussion on the fight being waged by Black farmers against the government and its discriminatory loan policies.

Students from the City University of New York-Staten Island campus stopped at the table and bought *Revolutionary Continuity*, volumes 1 and 2, by Farrell Dobbs, as well as a *Militant*. Two Black women workers from Brooklyn, one of whom was a supporter of the Grenadan revolution, subscribed to the *Militant*.

Several members of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee came by the table. One bought the new pamphlet *Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity* by Rafael Cancel Miranda.

Overall, nearly \$300 in books and pamphlets were sold.

Striking miners oppose FBI attack

Continued from front page

Cudmore. The search warrant targeted "a gray metal shed" and was searching for "jackrocks, bent nails, other small sharp metal objects, double pointed nails, a welder, grinder, a file, and other tools suitable for making jackrocks." Nothing was found. The FBI agents were told to leave the property after their search.

The FBI attack on the Yard family follows a series of attempts to portray the strikers as violent and criminal. The *Springfield Journal Register* ran a lead article October 31 titled, "Mine troubles take an ugly turn." It reported that a number of area families had their "homes pelted with paint-filled light bulbs and their driveways peppered with 'jackrocks.'" The article quotes Susan Fox, the wife of a mine manager at Freeman and David Yard's sister. Both Fox and her husband are former UMWA members. The newspaper also carries a lengthy letter to the editor from Fox saying, "I don't condone criminal activity in any way shape or form. I also

feel that any person aware of criminal defacing of personal property or any other type of criminal offense that doesn't speak out against such acts, are just as guilty as the one committing the crime."

Freeman spokesperson Steve Cindrich was quoted as saying, "The company has never blamed UMWA workers for these acts of vandalism." The November 13, Taylorville *Breeze-Courier* describes Cindrich as saying he did not know anything about a search warrant being issued to the FBI. But then he goes on, "We have added security at different points because of these acts of vandalism."

Earlier this month a Sangamon County judge issued a temporary restraining order to prevent strikers from coming within 1,000 feet of company bosses. The police chief of Virden said officers will keep a watch for "suspicious" vehicles. "We'll be trying to check anybody that basically shouldn't be driving around at two or three in the morning on side streets, unless we know who they are and where they are going." Girard, Illinois, police said they are putting on extra patrols.

Miners respond to the FBI harassment

Greg Mahan, president of Local 1969, told the Taylorville *Breeze-Courier*, "No one in the union has been involved in any type of vandalism which has been reported since the strike began. We go on the picket line and cause no problems, and we don't do anything to intimidate any of the security at the picket lines." Mahan explained, "It has been known in the past, Vance security employees used tactics to intimidate the strikers and try to provoke reaction to some of the things they say. They are threatening in their behavior to the strikers. They often take pictures to later use to influence the strikers."

The striking miners have issued a leaflet with a picture of Georgia Yard alerting supporters and people in the community to the FBI visit. The leaflet is titled, "You want to search my house for what?!" The leaflet shows a copy of the search warrant and asks for support "to help the Freeman miners stand strong." The leaflet and letters to the editor from miners have been sent out to area newspapers.

The strikers sent two of their members to the Labor Party convention held in Pittsburgh November 13-15 to explain the latest

You want to search my house for
WHAT?!



is a
Freeman
Illinois.
Miners Relief
against Freeman
subsidiary of General
attempting to change health
and their retirees at risk.

86 year old Georgia Yard was
approached at her rural Illinois home by
FBI agents. When asked if they could
search her machine shed, she asked
to see a search warrant. They
told her they would be back
with a warrant after they
found a judge to sign it. It
took three days to find one.
The FBI chose Mrs. Yard
because her grandson David
UMWA member on strike at
United Crown II mine in Virden,
David is also a trustee on the UMWA
Fund. The UMWA has been on strike
United Coal Company, a wholly owned sub-
Dynamics, since September 10. Freeman is
care benefits that would put miners, their families

Please help the Freeman miners stand strong. Contributions can be sent to:

UMWA Strike Headquarters
PO Box 107
Farmersville, Illinois 62533
217-227-3233

make checks payable to United Mine Workers of America.

Flyer distributed by miners to protest FBI harassment of striker David Yard's family

attack on the strike and to win support for their fight (see article on facing page). The miners set up a table and were able to distribute information about their strike and hand out hundreds of flyers on the FBI harassment.

Greg Mahan told the *Militant* in a phone interview, "From day one we organized ourselves to practice no violence in our strike. The FBI was trying to intimidate David's grandmother and David. They wanted him to react and to use that against our strike. It's the company and their goons who want to intimidate our members. They want to

break our strike."

"We have been very active in the strike," Yard explained to the *Militant*. "My grandmother is almost 87 years old and has survived three heart attacks. The FBI are nothing more than strike breakers. Their goal is to intimidate people like myself and our membership."

"We have been very effective," Yard continued. "We are broadening out our fight against Freeman and the company doesn't like that. We have won support from many different unions in the Midwest. Small business owners and individuals from as far away as Des Moines, Iowa, have sent support to our strike. Area unions are taking up plant gate collections and have sent truck loads of food for our food pantry at strike headquarters. We will continue to speak to other unions to get their support and to warn them about what the company is doing."

Both Mahan and Yard said that the strike and the UMWA membership are stronger than they have ever been. "We will not let Freeman intimidate us," they declared.

An October 30 press release issued by the UMWA reports that negotiations between the union and Freeman broke off when the union rejected a proposal that would drastically limit employees' seniority rights for the purposes of recall and job bidding. There are no new negotiations set.

Socialist candidate explains stance on minimum wage, affirmative action

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

SEATTLE — On election day November 3, three referenda items of significance to working people appeared on the ballot in Washington state. In adopting Initiative 688 by a 67 percent majority, voters overwhelmingly approved raising the state's minimum wage. Initiative 200, which aims to end affirmative action, carried with a 59 to 41 percent vote. Voters here, as in several other states, also turned back an effort to restrict women's right to choose abortion by rejecting Initiative 694, which would have banned a type of late-term abortion procedure.

Jeff Powers, a railroad switchman and member of the United Transportation Union, was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for congress in Seattle's 7th CD. At a gathering of campaign supporters on October 31, Powers explained why he called for a "yes" vote on I-688, the minimum wage initiative. The measure will raise Washington's minimum wage for every worker — 18 years of age or older — to \$5.70 an hour on Jan. 1, 1999 and to \$6.50 an hour on Jan. 1, 2000. It also requires further increases in the minimum wage as the cost-of-living index rises. These figures are above the federal minimum wage of \$5.25 an hour.

Supporters of I-688 collected more than 200,000 signatures to place the initiative on the ballot. Much of the work was done by unions affiliated to the Washington State AFL-CIO. Some liberal politicians and labor officials decided to promote this measure, which they touted as a "living wage." They felt pressure to be seen as doing something

to improve wages in face of an upturn in resistance by working people to demands of the government and employers for sacrifice.

"Our campaign demands a sliding scale of hours and wages," Powers said. "That the government establish for all public employees automatic cost-of-living adjustments of wages, pensions, and social benefits such as welfare, unemployment compensation, and Social Security. We call for a fight for full, automatic cost-of-living protection in all union contracts and for workers in every plant and workplace. In capitalist society, wages are set from the bottom up. In order to help increase the wage level for all working people, we also call for raising the minimum wage."

Powers noted that "\$6.50 an hour is not the 'living wage' that promoters of I-688 claim. But if it leads to a wage increase, it will benefit some workers. Most workers, especially the lowest paid, see that as a good thing. And they are right."

"It is also an affirmative action measure because working people who are paid the minimum wage are disproportionately Black, Native American, Latino, and women," Powers added. "Passage of this bill puts no road blocks in the way of workers fighting for the substantially higher wages that are really needed," Powers said. "As we campaigned we introduced fellow workers to *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, adopted by the SWP in 1988. This pamphlet outlines proposals the labor movement can fight for through independent,

working-class political action. This is the strategy needed to fight for an adequate minimum wage and other measures that can defend working people from the impact of the capitalist crisis," Powers concluded.

Anti-affirmative action measure

I-200 was modeled after California's Proposition 209, adopted in 1996. The Washington initiative says the government shall "be prohibited from discriminating or granting preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in public employment education and contracting." I-200 supporters chose the language in an effort to portray the initiative as an "anti-discrimination" measure.

Powers explained, "whenever I spoke I called for a no vote on I-200. The referendum was consciously worded to confuse people. Some actually thought the measure promoted affirmative action, though most knew better."

"The big-business politicians and their supporters who opposed I-200 refused to present a clear explanation of the political stakes involved. Nor are they capable of doing so," said Powers. "Many workers were influenced by the propaganda that

Continued on Page 4

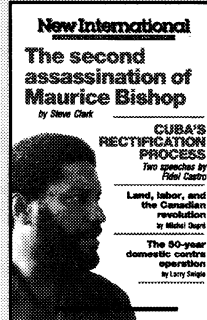
In NEW INTERNATIONAL No. 6 Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation LARRY SEIGLE

As the U.S. rulers prepared to smash working-class resistance and join the imperialist slaughter of World War II, the national political police apparatus as it exists today was born, together with the vastly expanded executive powers of the imperial presidency. The article documents the consequences for the labor, Black,

antiwar, and other social movements and how the working-class vanguard has fought over the past fifty years to defend democratic rights against government and employer attacks.

\$10.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.



Antigovernment protests grow in Indonesia

Continued from front page

sands. The shooting continued for two hours.

The following day angry crowds targeted the security forces, burning military vehicles and police posts, and attempting to torch two major police headquarters. Military tents were set on fire near the parliament, and several vehicles including an army truck were burned near the University of Indonesia campus.

While some of the crowds targeted Chinese-owned shops for looting, tens of thousands converged on the parliament building. *Sydney Morning Herald* reporter Louise Williams wrote, "On the western approach to the parliament thousands of angry local residents were walking towards police lines, gathering rock and sticks, and shouting insults at the security forces."

A summary of information, based on on-the-scene reports from Jakarta, released by Sydney-based Action in Solidarity with Indonesia and East Timor (ASIET) November 14, said that over November 12-13 "as students moved along the main thoroughfares, the neighborhood communities were encouraged to join the demonstrations." By late afternoon on November 12 "between 500,000 and one million people were moving along the streets."

"Marshals were assigned along the route to protect shops owned by Indonesian Chinese as well as banks. One lane was kept open so some traffic could pass. The huge mobilisation over the two days took place with almost no damage to property," the update reported.

Indonesian president B.J. Habibie, formerly Suharto's vice president, and armed forces chief General Wiranto have sought to present themselves as a break from the Suharto regime. They have faced almost daily protests across Indonesia in recent months, over corruption, police and military brutality, and land and labor rights.

Confronted with the sharpest crisis since he replaced Suharto in May, Habibie ordered Wiranto to take "whatever actions are necessary" to deal with "acts of rebellion" against his government.

The student protests have been demanding that the political role of the military, which reaches down to the village level, be ended, and that former president Suharto and members of his family who used governmental power to enrich themselves be brought to trial for corruption. A central demand coming increasingly to the fore is that the Habibie administration be immediately replaced by a caretaker government to organize elections.

With the killings by the military November 12-13, protesters are also now calling for Wiranto's resignation or dismissal.

The students denounced the MPR itself as a relic of the old regime with no credibility. Of the 1,000 members of the assembly, 575 were appointed under Suharto, with some since replaced by Habibie. The remain-

ing 425 were elected in polls last year rigged in favor of the regime's organization, Golkar.

Habibie convened the MPR to ratify the minimal reforms being proposed by the regime. These included reducing the military's quota of seats in parliament from 75 to 55 and calling elections for a new parliament in May or June next year, which would then elect a new president in December 1999.

Prior to the MPR session four prominent bourgeois opposition figures — Megawati Sukarnoputri, Amien Rais, Abdurrahman Wahid, and Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, the governor of Jogjakarta — issued a joint statement calling for the MPR to implement a series of reforms, including bring the presidential elections forward within three months. Early polls show 40 percent support for Megawati with 4 percent for Habibie.

The four politicians all called on the students to back down from their protests. Megawati and Wahid encouraged the students to "preserve your energy" while Rais, who played a prominent role in the student protests against Suharto at the beginning of 1998, said, "If we join forces [with the students] to foil" the MPR session "the anarchic situation will just drag on."

Rais called for calm, rejecting the students' demands for the dismissal of the MPR and the Habibie government, declaring, "I don't believe a revolution is appropriate for now."

Gov't sets stage for assault on students

The regime announced before the MPR session began that 30,000 troops and a civilian paramilitary force of 125,000 had been mobilized to defend parliament in anticipation of the student protests. A large rally of 70,000 to support the MPR was also organized November 5.

As students prepared for a showdown, 50,000 rallied at the University of Indonesia campus November 6, coinciding with a protest of 10,000 at the parliament.

The deployment of the vigilantes backfired. At least four of them were killed as local residents weighed into the battles on the side of the students. "Local people around the Proclamation Monument, which has been occupied by the Civil Security for two days, besieged them and were joined by tens of thousands of students," an account in *Info-Pembebasan* reported November 11. Before the gangs were forced to retreat they had "terrorized the people" for two days "using weapons such as sharpened bamboo sticks, knives and swords," the report said.

Protests against the killings of civilians by the military in Jakarta took place in at least 16 cities across Indonesia November



Student protester sits down in front of riot police in Jakarta, November 16.

14, including 20,000 in Bandung, and 10,000 in Medan where the airport was occupied. Demonstrations against the MPR session were also held across the country before it convened, including one in Lampung where 4,000 farmers joined students to march the 15 kilometers from Lampung University to the governor's office where they set up camp.

The protests have been fueled by the impact of the severe economic crisis on tens of millions of workers and farmers in Indonesia. The rupiah, the Indonesian currency, has plummeted since July 1997 and is currently trading at about 8,000 to the dollar. Prices have skyrocketed, especially for anything imported, along with unemployment. The *Sydney Morning Herald* quoted one young protester saying, "We support the students from behind. Habibie has failed to solve the economic crisis, many of us don't have jobs and our life is very difficult. Habibie is just the puppet of Suharto."

Jakarta student Bagas Sweta Bhaskara told the *Militant* in a phone interview that, "There is a real possibility of mass hunger, in districts like Cengkareng [near the airport and traditional fishing villages] and

Tanjungpriuk [near the Jakarta docks]. Both of these are among the poorest areas in Jakarta."

"The government tried to set up subsidized rice sales, at R2,000 a kilo," he said, but "some people can't even afford that," having a daily income of R1,000 or less. The cheapest nonsubsidized rice is R2,400 to R2,600, he said.

The government officially estimates that 40 percent of the country's 200 million people live in poverty, with 17 million facing severe food shortages.

In a move aimed at intimidating protesters, 10 opposition figures, mainly from the National Front group, dominated by retired military officers, were detained November 16. They had issued a statement echoing student demands that Habibie be replaced.

Also on November 16 some 5,000 people took part in the funeral of Herru Sudibyo, one of the students shot near the parliament, at Cilinang cemetery, about 50 kilometers north of Jakarta. More student protests are expected.

Bob Aiken is a member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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NEW ZEALAND

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Pathfinder

Maoism vs. Bolshevism

The 1965 Catastrophe in Indonesia, China's 'Cultural Revolution,' and the Disintegration of World Stalinism

JOSEPH HANSEN

Following the Chinese revolution of 1949, many workers and youth in Asia and elsewhere — inspired by that historic blow to imperialism — were politically misled by the Mao Zedong leadership. These articles, reports, and resolutions by Joseph Hansen explain the communist alternative to Mao's Stalinist course, which in 1965 paved the way for a bloody CIA-backed coup in Indonesia. \$10.00

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Uncle Sam's Club? — David Glass, top dog at the giant Wal-Mart retail chain, with operations including Sam's Clubs and other enter-



Harry Ring

prises, declares: "Our priorities are that we want to dominate North America first, then South America and then Asia and then Europe."

'Don't spend it all in one

place' — "Though increases in benefit costs remained subdued, wages and salaries spurred 1.2 percent in the three months that ended September 30." — *New York Times*.

Bourgeois proletarians? — "It's a workers paradise, with no inflation and lots of cheap imports," a banking economist confided to the *Times*. The paper added: "Workers [?] in financial services, from bankers to mortgage brokers are getting the largest raises."

Be well — A year ago, in New York's Beth Israel medical center, an unwitting patient died when sur-

geons permitted a salesman to pump eight liters of a saline solution into her uterus, to demonstrate a device he was peddling. "The patient basically drowned," said a state health official. The surgeons, who ignored repeated warnings from nurses, face possible loss of licenses or criminal charges and the salesman could be prosecuted. — *Los Angeles Times*

Pasta bosses lose their noodles — Hershey's, not satisfied with the bundle it was making on candy, moved in on the pasta market 30 years ago. But lower priced generics and Italian imports are cutting into the bottom line for its

brands — Ronxoni, San Giorgio — so they're dumping their pasta operation. Meanwhile Borden's labels — Creamette, Prince — are being hit the same way and may take the same path.

Don't think, believe — "Britain's churches are preparing to launch their annual advertising campaign with the slogan, 'Fix the world this Christmas.' But the £35,000 campaign is not going down well with some churchgoers, who say that if Christianity has not managed to fix the world after 2,000 years, it is hardly likely to do so now." — *The Times*, London.

\$\$\$ R Us — Mattel, the toy kings, will contribute \$25 million (over seven years and tax-deductible) to help build the Mattel Children's Hospital in the new UCLA medical center. Mattel has no interest in pushing its products, of course. But, to give the hospital an appealing image, the lobby will feature Hollywood-size versions of Mattel favorites, and each room will get its share of Mattel toys.

Thought for the week — "All bosses are bastards." — Banner of striking miners hanging near the Moscow White House, seat of Russian government.

What led to 1973 right-wing coup in Chile?

Below we print excerpts from the introduction to *Fidel Castro on Chile*, an Education for Socialists publication. The booklet is copyright © 1982 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY ELIZABETH STONE

In the fall of 1970, Salvador Allende Gossens, a Socialist Party left-winger and longtime supporter of the Cuban revolution, was elected president of Chile. He ran as the candidate of Popular Unity, a coalition of the Socialist Party, Communist Party, Radical Party, United People's Action Movement (MAPU — a left split from the Christian Democrats), and two smaller parties. The CP and SP were the dominant forces in the coalition.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Allende's victory reflected a broad radicalization of the Chilean masses. Popular Unity committees sprang up throughout the country to work for Allende's election, and when it became clear that Allende was going to get the largest vote of the three candidates running, masses of people poured into the streets to celebrate.

During the first year of the UP government, a number of far-reaching reforms were carried out. Foreign holdings in copper, nitrate, iron, and coal were nationalized, as well as many banks and textile mills. Steps were taken to implement a land reform law passed under the previous Christian Democratic government but never carried out. Along with this, peasants began seizing land. The government opposed such seizures, but in most cases went along with them, offering to pay the owners.

Workers received a significant increase in wages. A half quart of milk a day was supplied to children. Thousands of political prisoners were released. And Allende opened up diplomatic relations and trade with Cuba and took other foreign policy

stands, such as opposing U.S. intervention in Vietnam, that earned the wrath of the U.S. government....

Allende's class-collaborationist course

Despite Allende's radical rhetoric, and despite some significant anti-imperialist action, Popular Unity was a class-collaborationist coalition, a popular front. It subordinated the struggles of the masses to an orientation of collaborating with bourgeois parties and forces. The top UP leadership opposed a perspective of mobilizing the working class and its allies to take power, dismantle the old army and state apparatus, and build a new one based on the toilers. They looked to the army brass and to agreements with the Christian Democratic Party to protect them from the imperialists and the right wing. At critical points in the Chilean struggle, the UP brought members of the top Chilean officer corps into the government as a guarantee to Chilean capitalists. Even when attacks from the right wing became severe, the main forces in the UP were afraid to organize the masses for an effective fight because this would frighten the Christian Democrats and cause them to turn against the government.

The UP government was also scrupulous in making sure that everything was done without infringing on bourgeois legality. It proclaimed that the "revolution" was being made in the context of bourgeois institutions.

Unlike the UP leaders, the imperialists and the Chilean ruling class had no allegiance whatsoever to bourgeois legality. From the beginning, imperialism began to plot to get rid of Allende. In fact, the U.S. corporation International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) connived with Richard Nixon's administration to try to prevent Allende from even being elected. And after the election, there were further plots to try to keep Allende from taking office....

Given his framework of not challenging bourgeois legality and the norms of capitalism, Allende found himself more and more in the position of calling upon the workers to sacrifice to meet the payments demanded by the imperialists.

As the crisis deepened, the right-wing actions against the government began to grow and involve larger layer of the middle class. In October 1972 small shopkeepers went on strike against government searches for hoarded goods. Upper class and middle-class women began to demonstrate against the shortages. Fascist movements began to grow and to carry out violent attacks. Right-wing forces carried out bombings, assassinations, and provocations. The bourgeois press produced an unending stream of lies against the UP and the workers' movement. Finally, right-wing bosses' "strikes," spearheaded by the truck owners, paralyzed the economy.

Washington directly aids rightists

U.S. imperialism played a direct role in this destabilization campaign. The U.S. embassy, the CIA, U.S. corporations, U.S.-trained Cuban counter-revolutionaries, and the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) — the AFL-CIO bureaucracy's government-funded counter-revolutionary operation in Latin America — all had a hand in the action.

When U.S. aid to Chile was cut, there were two notable exceptions: 1) U.S. military aid and training contin-

ued for the Chilean armed forces; and 2) a million dollars were made available through AID to finance counterrevolution. Most of the latter was channeled through AIFLD and used to help organize and finance the truck owners' strike, as well as other activities of the right wing.

Working people in Chile responded to these attacks by defending the Allende government and by taking steps to keep the economy running. When the capitalists began to sabotage production, the workers occupied the plants and continued to produce without the bosses. In the summer of 1973, the army responded with searches of the plants, harassing and arresting workers under the pretext of searching for weapons. The Christian Democrats backed up the army in their growing attacks on the workers and the UP.

This process culminated, three years after Allende's election, in a bloody military coup. Thousands of workers, political activists, and people from the poor neighborhood were massacred, along with many foreign revolutionaries who had obtained political asylum under the UP government. Allende himself was killed as he fought to defend the national palace against attacking troops. It was a terrible setback not only for Chile, but for the oppressed and exploited masses throughout all of Latin America.

These tragic events provided important lessons for the workers movement. They showed what imperialism was ready to do to defend its interests. They also showed the bankruptcy of a perspective of relying on the bourgeoisie in the struggle against imperialism....

Cuba's role

Cuba responded to the events in Chile in the following ways: 1) by solidarizing with Chile as a country that was charting a foreign policy independent of Yankee imperialism and taking its natural resources

out of the hands of the imperialists; 2) by defending the Popular Unity government in the face of a concerted drive by imperialism and Chilean reaction to overthrow it; and 3) by attempting to bolster the positions of those in Chile who were trying to mobilize the masses to defeat the right-wing forces and to make a revolution, and to influence the broadest possible layer in the UP and Chilean labor movement along these lines.

The Cubans jumped to the defense of Chile as soon as the U.S. attacks began, even before Allende became president. They sought to expose what the U.S. was doing and viewed the election itself as a victory against this. *Granma* [the daily published by the Communist Party of Cuba] carried a banner headline, "Anti-imperialist Victory in Chile."

The Cubans recognized that one of the reasons for Washington's fury against Allende was his well-known support for the Cuban revolution. Allende was a friend Che [Guevara] and Fidel [Castro] and he frequently spoke in support of Cuba in his speeches. More important, Chile's extension of diplomatic and trade relations to Cuba was the first big breakthrough against Washington's policy of isolating Cuba in Latin America. A year later came the invitation to Castro to come as an official guest of the UP government. This was the first time that Castro was able to visit another Latin American country in eleven years. During his three-and-a-half-week trip, Castro was greeted by hundred of thousands of Chileans. He spoke to large rallies of workers, peasants, and students.

The Cubans and Castro identified themselves with the UP government and the anti-imperialist measures. At the same time, however, Castro's political line for Chile, and his projection of what the workers needed to do to carry the struggle forward, was in opposition to the line of the UP leadership. This is shown clearly in the speeches he gave while he was in Chile.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



November 29, 1948

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 — Atlantic ports from Maine to Virginia continue [to be] paralyzed as 45,000 members of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association hold their strike lines firm.

Attempts of the ship operators to divert big luxury passenger liners as well as freighters to Halifax, Nova Scotia, have failed. Dock workers in Halifax have refused to unload boats originally scheduled for strike-bound ports.

Negotiations between the ILA officials and the New York Shipping Association have been stalemated to date by the arrogant refusal of the employers to yield an inch. The union committee turned down a proposition to discuss a welfare plan after the men ended their strike.

The struggle began Nov. 10 as a spontaneous revolt against a sell-out contract which [ILA president Joseph] Ryan and his committee had already agreed to present to the membership with a recommendation for acceptance. Within three days, some 45,000 men "voted with their feet" against Ryan's contract. Ryan then agreed to "lead" the strike.



November 30, 1973

If anyone still thinks that even-handed justice is dispensed by the courts and government wage-control agencies, the brutal discrimination against 30,000 low-paid hospital workers, mostly Black and Puerto Ricans, should dispel that illusion.

In New York City the orderlies, kitchen help, technicians, and other workers in 48 hospitals and nursing homes walked out on Nov. 5. They had been waiting four months for the Cost of Living Council (CLC) in Washington to approve a pay raise recommended almost a year and a half ago by a state arbitration panel. Wages for the vast majority were low to begin with, only \$142 a week before taxes, and their raise was only \$12.

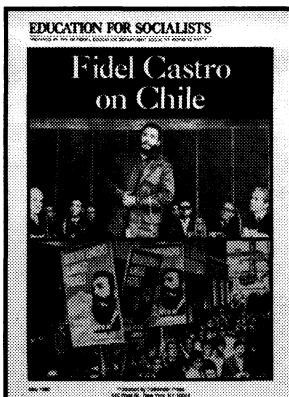
The striking hospital workers were determined to challenge the authority of the Cost of Living Council. They could have succeeded if the labor officials who sit as Nixon-appointed advisers to that council had resigned, broken with the wage-control policies, and organized labor solidarity with the hospital workers. Instead, the bureaucrats continued to lend their authority to the backstabbing operations of the council.

from Pathfinder

Fidel Castro on Chile

Speeches and interviews from Fidel Castro's 25-day visit to Chile in 1971.

Castro warns of impending counterrevolution and stresses the example of Cuba, where workers and farmers mobilized to defeat imperialist intervention. \$12.00



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UN 'inspectors' out of Iraq!

Continued from front page raids.

Working people around the world, and especially in the United States, need to demand these "inspectors" get out of Iraq, that the criminal embargo strangling Iraq be lifted, and that Washington get all its troops out of the Middle East.

The Clinton administration and other ruling-class figures have begun to more openly float the idea of overthrowing the Saddam Hussein government. "Unfortunately the only sure way to reach that goal is for American troops to invade Iraq and capture Baghdad, a risky prospect," opined the editors of the *New York Times* on November 19. Risky indeed.

Each military assault Washington executes deepens the instability in the Middle East. The capitalist regimes and imperialist order in the Gulf and Mideast regions are more unstable today than before 1990. Tactical divisions have opened within U.S. ruling circles over the Clinton administration's renewed policy of cobbling together a motley crew of dissident groups for a palace coup, which has resulted in past debacles for the White House.

Since their 1990-91 Gulf War slaughter against the Iraqi people, the U.S. capitalist class has not advanced one inch toward its goal of imposing a protectorate in Baghdad. Facing intensified competition, the U.S. rulers aim to use their military might to secure greater control over oil reserves in the region and deal economic and political blows to their rivals — the propertied classes in Europe and Ja-

pan. The buildup in the Arab-Persian Gulf is also part of tightening Washington's military ring around the Russian workers state, in preparation for coming confrontations with the toilers there.

V.I. Lenin, central leader of the 1917 Russian revolution, explains in his pamphlet *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, "Wars are absolutely inevitable under such an economic system, as long as private property in the means of production exists."

The Gulf War highlighted the declining capitalist world order and accelerated its contradictions. As the lead article in issue no. 7 of *New Internationalist* explains, "It sounded the opening guns of sharpening conflicts and class battles that will decide whether the horrors of World War III are inflicted on humanity... or a road is opened by working people to a socialist future of international human solidarity."

Opponents of Washington's imperial aggression will find receptive ears for this and other political tools among co-workers on the job, at plant gates, on picket lines, on campuses, working-class neighborhoods, and political events. This is a good time for working-class fighters to step up political discussions and sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and other Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

Campaigning to tell the truth about imperialism's march toward fascism and war will increase the confidence of vanguard fighters and help strengthen working-class resistance to the bosses' attacks.

Build, attend the YS convention

Continued from front page

organization's efforts to deepen its mass work in solidarity with embattled workers — from coal miners striking Freeman United Coal Mining Co. in Illinois to Steelworkers on the picket lines against Titan Tire — and its involvement in struggles to defend affirmative action, a woman's right to choose abortion, and bilingual education; demand the release of Puerto Rican political prisoners; and support farmers protesting foreclosures.

The open sessions will also include presentations, followed by discussion among those present, by Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist*, and SWP national secretary Jack Barnes.

Waters just returned from a two-week *Militant* reporting trip to Cuba to cover the congress of Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) and related political developments in that country. She will discuss the international campaign being waged by Cuba's communist leadership to explain the inevitable character of the advancing catastrophe of the world capitalist system and why socialist globalization is the only alternative to the globalization inherent in capitalism — with social and economic devastation for millions, and the steady march towards fascism and war. She will also bring greetings to the YS convention on behalf of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution.

Barnes will address the political shifts registered in the recent U.S. elections, the most important elections since 1992. At that time William Clinton was first elected president, Texas billionaire and populist Ross Perot took 19 percent of the vote running against Clinton and George Bush, and ultrarightist politician Patrick Buchanan launched his campaign to win cadres for a "culture war." The 1998 elections registered an acceleration of the shift to the left in bourgeois politics that's been evident since early 1997 in most imperialist countries. They simultaneously showed a rise in social polarization with rightist

currents getting a wider hearing for their radical demagoguery. This was reflected most graphically, and surprisingly to the entire working-class movement in Minnesota, in the election of Reform Party candidate Jesse Ventura for governor of that state. Why? And why such surprises must not be repeated for vanguard workers.

Barnes will also discuss the new openings for mass work by class-conscious workers in the labor movement and the need for a working-class response to the unfolding world capitalist depression.

A final public session of the movement conference will introduce the newly elected YS National Committee, summarize the accomplishments of the Young Socialists convention, and introduce the themes for building the 40th constitutional convention of the SWP scheduled to take place the first week of April in San Francisco.

Participants in the gathering will have a chance to work together to gain a better understanding of the depth of the political, economic, and social changes reshaping our world. They will discuss how to forge the kind of proletarian youth organizations and working-class parties capable of acting in a politically centralized manner, with speed and effectiveness, to confront the unpredictable challenges and opportunities created daily by the acceleration of the deflationary crisis of world capitalism.

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party have already been collaborating with YS chapters to raise funds for scholarships to help YS members and other interested youth attend the convention. They have also been working with Young Socialists to publicize the convention through participation in mass work and speaking tours of YS leaders (see article at right).

The task now is to strengthen these efforts in the two weeks leading up to the Los Angeles gathering to maximize the numbers of young people participating as well as ensure that a wide range of SWP members and supporters of the communist movement attend.

U.S. provocations against Iraq

Continued from Page 9

Congress, and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain are now rallying around the idea of overthrowing Saddam Hussein," said the lead editorial in the November 19 *New York Times*. "The thought is certainly alluring.... Unfortunately, the only sure way to reach that goal is for American troops to invade Iraq and capture Baghdad, a risky prospect few Americans would support."

The Central Intelligence Agency has failed with at least six plans to topple the Iraqi president.

Washington's previous attempt to foment opposition inside Iraq ended in a fiasco, when its puppet group, the so-called Iraqi National Accord, was broken up by Iraqi intelligence in June 1996. Two months later Iraqi military forces rolled into northern Iraq and destroyed camps controlled by the CIA-backed Iraqi National Congress and the Popular Union of Kurdistan.

On October 31 Clinton signed into law the misnamed Iraqi Liberation Act that provides \$97 million to such opposition groups fostered by the CIA. Two weeks later, at a November 16 press conference, Clinton vowed to implement a Congressional plan for arming Iraqi groups as a way toward removing Hussein from power. "Over the past year we have deepened our engagement with the

forces of change in Iraq, reconciling the two largest opposition groups, beginning broadcasts of a Radio Free Iraq throughout the country," Clinton stated. "We will intensify that effort, working with Congress to implement the Iraq Liberation Act."

Other government officials have not been too enthusiastic about this step. "I think a weakened, fragmented, chaotic Iraq, which could happen if this isn't done carefully, is more dangerous in the long run than a contained Saddam is now," said Gen. Anthony Zinni, the U.S. commander in the Gulf, who opposed the new law. "I don't think these things have been thought out."

Meanwhile, more than 80 UN snoops have returned to Baghdad for what will inevitably develop into another round of provocations. Most Iraqi citizens "perceive the UN weapons inspectors as sophisticated spies who use the most advanced technology to track" Baghdad's military facilities, reported the November 16 London's *Financial Times*.

"It has been eight years and the inspectors have been everywhere, even in our homes. Their airplanes can even uncover what is hidden underground," said Salim Ibrahim, who operates a tea stall in Baghdad. "Where are we hiding the weapons, between the earth and the sky?"

Minnesota: YS tour builds convention

BY HEATHER WOOD

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — As part of the effort in Minnesota to build the Young Socialists convention, YS members organized a speaking tour here November 11-13 for Maithong Yang, a leader of the Young Socialists from Los Angeles. The convention-building tour consisted of four informal meetings with students at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Macalester College in St. Paul, and St. Olaf College in Northfield. In addition, Yang spoke at a Militant Labor Forum on defending a woman's right to choose abortion.

Yang was invited to speak on campuses about fighting racist, sexist, and homophobic attacks in the wake of the recent lynching of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming and assassination of Dr. Barnett Slepian in New York state. In addition, Macalester students asked her to speak about student-labor solidarity. In her remarks, Yang pointed to the response of workers and students to right-wing attacks and encouraged students to be a part of organizing protest actions on their campuses.

Twenty-seven students came to a dinner meeting at St. Olaf College, sponsored by the Political Awareness Committee. Before the meeting, a couple of students stopped by a table the Young Socialists had set up and talked about a walkout they organized on their campus two years ago to protest the school's lack of diversity. In her remarks, Yang pointed to this example, spoke about attacks on affirmative action and bilingual education in California, and asked what students are doing currently to organize around diversity issues at their school. One student, La'Crystal Cooke, explained some of the problems of being Black at an almost all-white school. "You think it's cold outside? It's cold in here!" Cooke stated. Later she took a subscription blank for the *Militant* and talked to YS members about attending the convention in Los Angeles.

Seventeen students attended an informal lunch discussion on Friday with Yang at the Asian American Student Cultural Center (AASCC) at the University of Minnesota. The meeting was organized with the help of the Hmong Student Association. Most of the students present were members of the Hmong Student Association, other subgroups within the AASCC, and Africana Student Cultural Center, the university's Black student center. Following the meeting, one student asked for information about the YS convention, explaining that he would like to learn more about the organization.

In addition to the campus meetings, one of the highlights of Yang's visit here was meeting with members of CAAR (Community Action Against Racism). CAAR is an organization led by Hmong youth, which sprang out of racist attacks that occurred on local radio station KQRS's "Morning Show" with Tom Barnard. Barnard's used his June 9 airtime to belittle Hmong culture and the community with offensive remarks such as, "Assimilate or hit the goddamn road!" Following the racist attacks, young people in the community formed CAAR and organized two successful public protests demanding a public apology from KQRS and an end to racist slanders on air. KQRS was forced to back down and issue public apologies. Yang participated in a meeting with activists in CAAR to plan a victory celebration that is scheduled for November 21.

Out of the speaking tour, YS members met five students who expressed interest in attending the convention. One student from St. Olaf College is coming to St. Paul on November 21 to participate in the CAAR victory celebration with members of the Young Socialists, attend a YS-sponsored class, and help with a dinner planned by the YS to raise money for the convention that evening. He is interested in attending the YS convention.

A political science student from St. Benedict near St. Cloud, Katie Knutson, who met the YS at a book fair in Chicago last spring, will be attending the convention as well. Knutson has been participating in weekly classes sponsored by the Young Socialists, and will be leading the next week's discussion on the fight for a workers and farmers government today with readings from the pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. The class is the final in a three-part series on the crisis of capitalism and the increasing fightbacks of workers and youth. At the bookstore November 15, Knutson bought copies of *New Internationalist* no. 10 featuring "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War," *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, and *The Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State*.

On November 20, the Militant Labor Forum is sponsoring a special program where young people will have an opportunity to speak out against U.S. imperialism and its war threats against Iraq. Chad McMann, a student at Macalester who helped organize Yang's visit there; Travis Henspeter, a member of Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) at Macalester; and John Coutley, a student at the University of Minnesota, will speak as part of a panel.

The next night is the fund-raising dinner, and a Sunday brunch and film showing will take place November 29. The YS has set a goal of raising more than \$2,000 locally to help in getting YS members and contacts to Los Angeles and to contribute to the overall expenses of the convention. So far, six people from Minnesota have plane tickets to Los Angeles for the convention.

U. of Puerto Rico strike expands union rights

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A strike by the workers of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) closed the 11 campuses of the school November 4-5. The Brotherhood of Non-Teaching Employees (HEEND) went on to strike to demand a union shop where all workers covered by the collective bargaining unit would have to join the union. The strike was settled with an agreement that all workers will be in the union automatically unless they state in writing that they do not wish to join.

Before dawn on November 4 the HEEND put up pickets at all entrances to the 11 campuses. The HEEND has about 3,200 members. Some 800 people are covered by the collective bargaining agreement but are not members. There are at least another 1,200 workers who are in other unions or who are not unionized.

By 6:30 a.m. November 4 there were about 50 people in front of the main gate of the Río Piedras campus. Supporters of the strike included Rafael Bernabe, president of the Puerto Rican Association of University Professors and vice president of the Teachers Federation Jesus Delgado. A group of students were painting signs in support of the strike. Throughout the action there were no classes and few people tried to cross. One professor arrived about 8:00 a.m. and said that to be paid he had to sign in. After talking to the strikers, he left without crossing the picket line.

UPR president Norman Maldonado had



Strikers block entrance to University of Puerto Rico's School of Medicine November 4. Brotherhood of Non-Teaching Employees (HEEND) struck to demand a union shop.

announced a no-confrontation policy ahead of time. The government of Puerto Rico is not anxious to repeat the negative publicity it received earlier this year during the telephone workers strike against the sell-off of the state-owned phone company. *Life* magazine, for instance, ran a photograph of telephone striker who had been beaten and dragged by police, leaving a bloody trail, with a woman screaming over the unconscious worker.

Sonia Reyes, president of HEEND, told

the *Militant* the union is not demanding that only members of the union could be hired, but rather a union shop where everybody would have to join the union once they were hired. She said that the union has been ready to negotiate and the UPR president Maldonado provoked the strike. After the telephone strike, she said that the union movement was "more united. We understand that we have the support of other union organizations."

At first Maldonado did not object to the

idea of a union shop, later he claimed that it was illegal. The pro-independence weekly *Claridad* ran a legal analysis that showed the law under which the HEEND is recognized neither allows nor prohibits a union shop.

The law allows workers at public corporations like the telephone, water, and electricity utilities to have unions, but other public workers are only allowed to have associations that do not have all the rights of unions. In reality the associations or brotherhoods have fought to be treated like unions and have largely erased the differences in the original laws.

The day before the strike the Student Council called an assembly of the students who attend the classes at Río Piedras. The television news showed a heated debate, as the elected student government leadership argued that the 1,000 students at the meeting were not representative enough of the 20,000 students to officially vote on supporting the strike. They said that they were supportive of the workers, but that the meeting did not have a quorum. After they left several hundred students remained and formed an ad hoc committee to support the striking workers.

After two days of picketing, an agreement was reached the evening of November 5 and the picket lines came down. Classes were held on November 6, but due to the lateness of the agreement attendance was light. The agreement says that all members of the bargaining unit will be members of the union unless they file a written document declining membership.

Workers resist as Peterbilt tries to bust UAW with scabs

BY RICH STUART
AND RONALD MARTIN

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Peterbilt Motors has raised the stakes in a hard fought battle being waged by 1,200 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1832 against the big truck maker. Workers struck the Peterbilt truck plant near here May 3.

According to UAW Local 1832 president Richard Burnett, four months into the strike on September 10, the union offered in a "letter of unconditional return" to go back to work without a contract and continue negotiations for a new contract. The company refused. The union then declared the strike a lockout.

The company responded by hiring some 700 strikebreakers through a scab-herding outfit called Strom Engineering. Burnett said, "I can't see spending hundreds of millions of dollars to save the \$6 million it would take to resolve the strike. It's a union-busting tactic."

On the picket line workers' morale is high and they are eager to tell their story. Motorists passing by constantly honk and wave in support of the locked-out workers.

Since the beginning of the strike, only 15 of the 1,200 strikers have crossed the union's picket line. The pickets said they have noticed a big turnover among the strikebreakers. The company claims to be producing 30 trucks a day compared to 54 before the strike.

Pickets reported that many of the replacement workers are Black. Peterbilt "will use any technique they can use against us," said Dan MacDaniel, a picket captain who is Black.

"They never thought we'd stick together," MacDaniel explained. "Paul Piggott inherited all this and never had to work a day in his life." He was referring to a member of the Piggott family of Washington state, which owns PACCAR, Inc., the parent company of Peterbilt. PACCAR, the second-largest heavy truck manufacturer in the world, also owns Kenworth Trucks.

Picket captain Donald Todd, a 25-year veteran of Peterbilt, told the *Militant*, "It's real important to win this. This is the first time they've ever brought in replacement workers. They just intend to break the union and we're determined not to let that happen."

Aaron Aycock and MacDaniel, each with 28 years at Peterbilt, emphasized that the main issues in the strike were improvements in retirement benefits and pensions.

Aycock said, "You're working 12- and 16-hour days, helping them out when they need

you, then when it comes your turn they don't even recognize you. They want to treat you like a dog. That's exactly the way I feel about it." MacDaniel agreed, saying, "You've been here almost 30 years breathing diesel smoke and they don't want to give you anything for retirement."

Todd explained that the unity of the different generations of strikers has been a strong point in the battle against Peterbilt. "They hired a lot of young workers about three years ago. The whole intention was to divide young against old.... That's got the company puzzled how these young people have stuck together."

One of the younger workers, Scott Hartup, 28, hired on at Peterbilt three and a half years ago. "This is my first union job. My supervisor stopped at the picket line at the beginning of the strike and talked to me about crossing the line and coming in to work. I told him 'kiss my — I' They counted on it being all of us young people not caring about issues like pensions. But I'm looking out for my future."

James Brackin, also with just three years at the plant added, "I'm pro-union all the

way. There's no way I'm going back 'til it's all settled."

Strikers from the Nashville Peterbilt plant have leafleted Peterbilt's only other plant, a nonunion factory in Denton, Texas. Local president Burnett said the workers at the Denton plant gave the Nashville workers a warm reception. Todd added, "If they would organize a union in the Denton plant that would help us tremendously."

Burnett said a recent National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) decision finding Peterbilt guilty of bad faith bargaining has cheered the locked-out workers. The NLRB has scheduled a hearing before an administrative law judge for Jan. 25, 1999, where the company could be held liable for back pay to locked-out workers from the first day of the lockout September 10.

Burnett told of "tremendous support from other unions around the country — the steelworkers, the machinists, the auto workers and others." Burnett said that Teamsters union members have handbilled truckers at truck stops. Peterbilt strikers have fanned out from Nashville to St. Louis, Memphis, and New Orleans, going to truck shows and

Peterbilt dealers handbiling truck drivers.

Shelley Reed, a worker at the big General Motors Saturn auto assembly plant in nearby Spring Hill, Tennessee, reported that a number of workplace collections have been taken there to raise funds for the Peterbilt UAW workers. UAW Local 1155 in Birmingham is among the other unions in the area that have sent aid to the strike.

Support to the Peterbilt workers' cause can be sent to UAW Local 1832; Community Service Committee, P.O. Box 243, Madison, TN 37116. Phone: (615) 868-6617.

Reflecting the attitude of many of the truck workers, Danny Tuttle said, "I'm a union man, will be one until I die. Unions are working people's only protection against greedy companies such as Peterbilt. It's such a good thing when union brothers and sisters join and help each other in their fights."

Rich Stuart is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 12014 in Birmingham, Alabama. Ronald Martin is a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 108 in Birmingham. George Williams contributed to this article.

— LETTERS —

Asbestos in prisons

In late August of this year I was removed, in transit, to the federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Lewisburg penitentiary is a completely walled-in federal institution that was built in 1932. Unfortunately, as we now know thoroughly, during this time period a common insulating building material was asbestos. I shudder to think of how many construction workers ultimately would die as a result of asbestos exposure insulating heating pipes in the Lewisburg prison.

Given the present, ongoing asbestos manufacturing and product liability legal settlement, in which the courts and government have played such a prominent role, it would be difficult to believe that the government would not be perfectly aware of the health hazards of asbestos.

Despite this, Lewisburg federal penitentiary is virtually loaded with asbestos — years after a major government effort to remove asbestos from public buildings. The level of asbestos

exposure that I personally witnessed at Lewisburg is, in my opinion, actually frightening.

In my opinion an immediate and massive effort is needed to determine the extent of asbestos exposure that is right now occurring at Lewisburg and, an equivalent effort, in my opinion, should be initiated to ascertain exactly how many inmates and staff have

died or acquired illnesses from this exposure over the years. And there is no doubt in my mind that deaths and illnesses have occurred.

*A prisoner
Petersburg, Virginia*

Please send the 'Militant'

As a progressive person who believes in liberation and freedom, I am very interested in the ideas and news of the *Militant* newspaper. Please send me a current *Militant*. Also, please continue sending me the *Militant* on a weekly basis. I look forward to hearing from you.

*A prisoner
Elizabeth City, North Carolina*

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



E. Timor independence fight deepens

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia — On November 12, as masses of students and workers confronted troops in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, demanding democratic rights and an end to the military's role in Indonesia's government, some 15,000 East Timorese rallied at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, East Timor, to press their demand for a referendum on independence from Indonesia.

In the months since former Indonesian dictator Suharto was forced to resign May 21, East Timorese youth, in particular, have stepped up their fight for self-determination.

East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, was invaded by Indonesian troops in December 1975, with the backing of Washington, Canberra, and other imperialist powers, and annexed the following year. Of a population of 750,000 at that time, some 200,000 people were killed or died of starvation in the first few years of Indonesian occupation. The November 12 rally in Dili took place on the anniversary of a 1991 massacre when Indonesian troops killed 271 at the cemetery after opening fire on the funeral procession of an East Timorese youth shot by the army.

Today Jakarta admits to having 18,000 troops in East Timor. Proindependence forces estimate more than 21,000 in August, with a troop buildup continuing since then. Repression by the Indonesian military, however, hasn't broken East Timorese resistance.

Protests in Dili October 11–12 condemned this military buildup, with one of the organizers declaring, "In Dili the armed forces is now taking a passive or defensive position, but in the mountains there are big, new military operations going on against the resistance fighters." At least 25,000 protesters, rallying in buses and trucks, brought Dili to a standstill October 12. They demanded a referendum for self-determination, the withdrawal of Indonesian forces, and the release of Xanana Gusmao, the central resistance leader, who is still jailed in Jakarta. The protests began October 10 as government employees went on strike to protest a threat by the Indonesian-appointed governor, Abilio Soares, to sack all public servants who support independence. Some 12,000 people rallied in Dili the following day.

Earlier this year Indonesian president B.J. Habibie offered "special status" for East Timor — unspecified local government autonomy — in return for international recognition of Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor. But this proposal for autonomy has been rejected by almost all political forces in East Timor. For instance, student leader Antero Benedito da Silva declared, "It's not Habibie's right to give us special status, it's the right of the people of East Timor to have self-determination through a referendum."

Students at the Dili campus have played a key role in the latest upsurge. Over July and August they organized as many as a dozen forums across East Timor to bring broader sections of the people into action. Some 5,000 people attended one held in Bacau — virtually the whole town along with people from the surrounding area.

Andrew McNaughton told 250 people at a Sydney rally, held November 14 to commemorate the Dili massacre, that these meetings were organized "against the opposition of the Indonesian military." McNaughton is the president of the Sydney branch of the Australia East Timor Association, and recently returned from a visit to East Timor.

Hundreds of students demonstrated at the provincial parliament in Dili September 10 on the eve of a two-day conference of 50 delegates from East Timor's main political parties. Organized by East Timor's two Catholic bishops, Carlos Belo and Basilio Nascimento, the conference called for the release of Xanana Gusmao. Only three delegates spoke in favor of autonomy within Indonesia, with the majority calling for a referendum. Gusmao, the president of the Na-



Some 1,500 East Timorese students demand independence from Indonesia in Jakarta June 12.

tional Council of Timorese Resistance, declared in a statement released in early September, "There can be no genuine solution to the East Timorese problem without a referendum. We demand this right of ours — a right denied to us for 23 years and ignored by the world — and we demand it vigorously. We will not be put off by compromises such as autonomy."

In an interview with French Press Agency (AFP) dated September 16 and smuggled out of Cipinang jail, Gusmao was quoted as saying, "We accept autonomy as a run-up to a referendum. A period of transition will create a climate of political tolerance and wipe out the last vestiges of the legacy of vengeance and hatred."

He declared that the Indonesian government's decision to enter into detailed discussions with Portugal on autonomy for East Timor signified "no concessions" on the part of the Indonesian authorities. Por-

tugal, the former colonial power in East Timor, is still recognized as the administering authority by the United Nations.

Jose Ramos-Horta, an exiled leader of the East Timorese struggle has also said that he would accept limited autonomy now within Indonesia and a five-year delay on a referendum on the territory's status.

In the AFP interview Gusmao said, "The UN must deploy peacekeepers (like the New Zealand troops in Bougainville), and also a police force including Timorese," to monitor a future withdrawal of Indonesian troops and the dismantling of the regime's repressive paramilitary forces.

Belo has also called for United Nations intervention. After Indonesian police agents killed an East Timorese farmer, Orlando Marcelino da Costa, June 28, the bishop said that if the Indonesian army "are not able to control the situation, let them ask UN forces to control the situation here." Marcelino was

among a crowd that had assembled in Bacau to meet a delegation of three European Union ambassadors led by British Ambassador Robin Christopher. Another East Timorese youth, Manuel Soares, was killed by security forces on the eve of their visit. The EU delegation was met by student-led rallies of up to 10,000.

Australia's rulers backed the Suharto regime from its seizure of power in a bloody 1965–66 coup, including Jakarta's brutal annexation of East Timor. With the mass upsurges unfolding in Indonesia and East Timor today, they are coming under increasing pressure to "revise" relations with the Indonesian government. "Too close to the generals" was the headline of a *Sydney Morning Herald* editorial October 30. The *Herald* pointed out that the "huge operation against communists in Java and Bali in 1965–66 ... one of the greatest mass killings of the twentieth century, was directed by one Colonel Sarwo Edhie, fresh out of an Australian Army staff college."

The Australian government in Canberra has recently "deferred" three joint military exercises with Indonesian units planned for the coming months. It has also called, for the first time ever, for Gusmao's release.

Central to Australian imperialism's interests is the 1989 Timor Gap treaty between the governments of Australia and Indonesia, which divided up rights to the oil and gas fields between Timor and Australia. BHP, a major Australian corporation, is a big stakeholder in the consortium, developing three fields in the jointly administered Zone A.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has called for a "Bougainville-type" dialogue on East Timor, offering to act as an "honest broker" to host future talks, and assist a settlement. An Australian-led "peacekeeping" force has been intervening in Bougainville for the last year, aiming to quell attempts by the people there to secede from Papua New Guinea.

Liberal forces press for imperialists to try Pinochet in violation of Chile sovereignty

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON — Various liberal and social democratic forces continued to press British imperialists to extradite former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet to Spain at the same time London was poised for a military assault on Iraq. Riding roughshod over the sovereignty of Chile — a nation oppressed by imperialism — British police arrested Pinochet October 16 at a London hospital on a warrant issued by a Spanish judge.

Adopting the guise of arbiter of civilized values and "human rights," the British High Court decided October 28 to overturn Pinochet's arrest and block his extradition on the grounds that his acts as a former head of state were subject to "sovereign immunity."

Pinochet came to power in Chile in a bloody September 1973 military coup, backed by Washington, aimed at stemming the rising tide of struggle by workers and peasants. The reformist government of President Salvador Allende and its backers in the Stalinist Communist Party had refused to arm working people to defend themselves against the military takeover. In the wake of the coup, thousands of union fighters and others were murdered, tortured or exiled.

On October 28 the British Attorney General also turned down an application to put Pinochet on trial in Britain. The ex-dictator remains in custody pending the outcome of an appeal to the highest appeal court based at the House of Lords. This was heard November 5–12, but no decision has yet been announced. Other imperialist governments have taken the opportunity to pose as defenders of human rights, with arrest warrants for Pinochet being issued in France and Switzerland. In Germany, Chilean exiles filed com-

plaints against the ex-dictator.

The October 28 High Court decision was condemned by Amnesty International, the New York-based Human Rights Watch International, the American Association of Jurists, and the International Commission of Jurists. The Labour chair of the Parliament foreign affairs committee said the court's decision would undermine efforts to arrest Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic and "other dictators." Another left MP Jeremy Corbyn repeated his call for the British government to extradite Pinochet after a vigil backing this demand held November 12. Corbyn was speaking hours before British warplanes prepared to participate in a massive U.S.-led bombardment of Iraq, which was subsequently put on hold. Isabel Allende, a member of the Socialist Party (SP) in Chile, and the daughter of former president Salvador Allende, who died in the 1973 coup, traveled to Britain early November with other SP members to campaign for Pinochet's extradition.

Pinochet's arrest has sparked renewed activity by the right wing in Chile, who wrap themselves in the banner of defending the nation's sovereignty. A rally of 45,000 rightists took place October 24 in Santiago. According to news reports in Chile, former members of secret police forces, dissolved in 1997, began regrouping in the wake of Pinochet's arrest. Socialist Party and Party for Democracy deputies in the Chilean parliament reportedly received death threats, as did leaders of the Communist Party.

Right-wing mayors launched an ultranationalist campaign. One, Christian Labbe, declared a "municipal war" against the Brit-

ish and Spanish diplomatic offices in the municipality of La Providencia. Labbe called on Chileans to fly the Chilean flag "until Pinochet is liberated." On November 10 Chilean president Eduardo Frei convened the National Security Council, after repeated calls by right-wing politicians. Half of the members of the National Security Council are army or police officers.

Right-wing politicians and commentators in Britain and the United States also opposed Pinochet's detention. Former Conservative prime minister Margaret Thatcher praised Pinochet's assistance to British imperialism during the 1982 Malvinas war against Argentina in a October 22 letter to *The Times*.

In an opinion piece in the *Wall Street Journal* October 30, entitled "Chile's Pinochet Fought Marxist Violence," James Whelan defended the murders carried out by the dictatorship. Whelan also took the opportunity to slander the Cuban revolution. Cuban leader Fidel Castro had made a state visit to Chile in 1971 at the invitation of Allende.

Interviewed by journalists in Spain October 20, Fidel Castro said it would only be "morally right" to arrest Pinochet if the "god-fathers and instructors of the tens of thousands of agents of repression who received courses in repression, in the United States" were also brought to justice; "let him be arrested in London; but let all the guilty parties be arrested as well," Castro said. The leader of the revolutionary government went on to point to Washington's involvement in the deaths or "disappearance" of tens of thousands in Latin and Central America and the "dirty war they organized against us from the very first moments of the Revolution."